Cartoonists For Palestine

رسامو القصص المصورة من أجل فلسطين

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Illustration by Kazimir Lee

Edited by Yazan al-Saadi, Tracy Chahwan, Shay Mirk, and Andy Warner

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This is a collection of cartoonists responding to the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people.

The forced displacement and killing of Palestinian people, as well as the seizure of their land, has been ongoing incrementally since 1948 but now has entered a very overt phase. This horrifying violence is actively abetted or passively ignored by our governments. In the face of this, we seek to gather cartoonists together in a radically transnational space where they can reflect on this bloodshed, share our voices, and express our solidarity.

While we are under no illusion that art can stop bombs from falling on children or tanks from rolling through city streets, we believe there is an urgent value to any community we can bring together in reaction to this bleak moment. In the face of calamity, artists still have a role to play. We are inspired by the examples of our history—from those who used art to reckon with the death camps of the Holocaust in Europe to those who employed art to fight against Apartheid in South Africa, and more.

Their legacy to us is a message: do not stand still or stay silent.

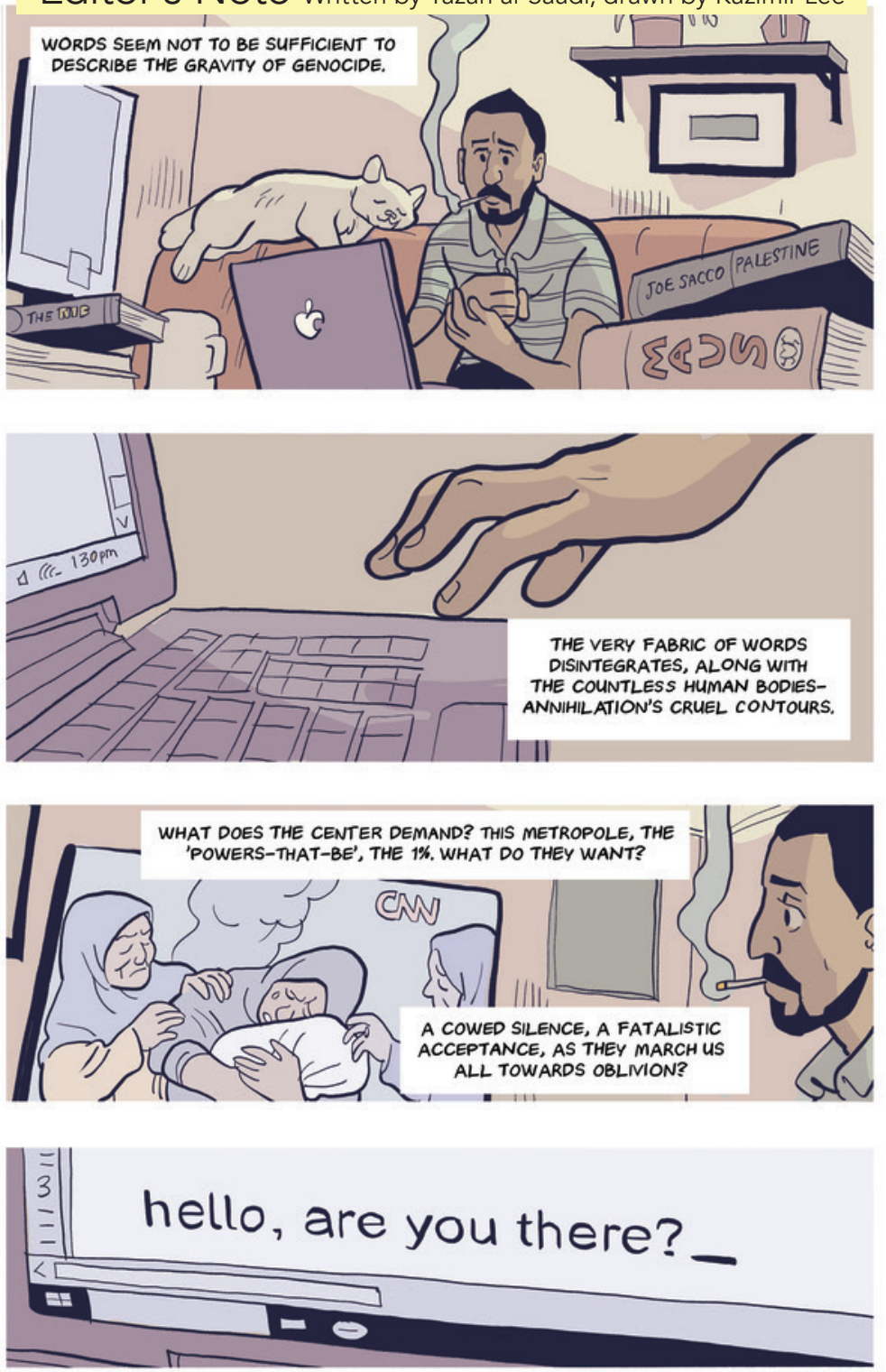
This archive seeks to center personal responses to Gaza within the cartoonist community, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, passport, place of birth, or place of current existence. This archive rejects Islamophobia, antisemitism, chauvinism, and hate of any and all kinds. This anthology embraces social justice, solidarity, equality, and unity of any and all kinds.

Comics have no walls nor borders, and the youngness of our medium represents an opportunity to reject the boundaries that were assigned to us. All around the world, in newspapers, magazines, and on mobile phone screens, comics speak about the most important topics of the day. We are not powerless. Through comics, we can shape the narratives told about ourselves and our world—and in that way, we hope to provoke change.

Recent events are extreme, brutal, and shocking, but they are part of a continuum—the long ideological project of settler colonialism that requires the systematic denial and destruction of indigenous peoples. Now is the time to build something new and different.

Editors: Yazan al-Saadi, Shay Mirk, Andy Warner, and Tracy Chahwan

Editor's Note Written by Yazan al-Saadi, drawn by Kazimir Lee

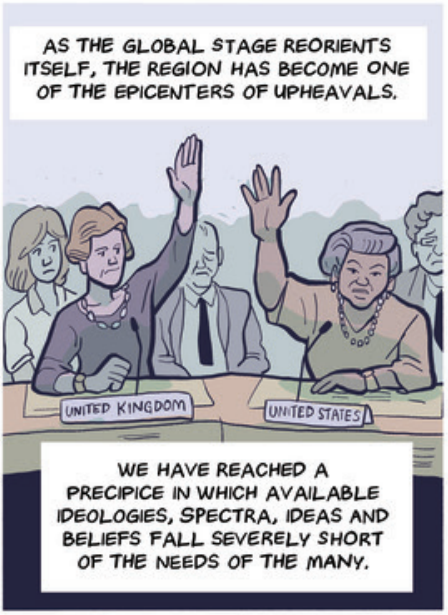

WORDS SEEM NOT TO BE SUFFICIENT TO DESCRIBE THE GRAVITY OF GENOCIDE.
THE NILE
JOE SACCO PALESTINE
1:30pm
THE VERY FABRIC OF WORDS DISINTEGRATES, ALONG WITH THE COUNTLESS HUMAN BODIES- ANNIHILATION'S CRUEL CONTOURS.
WHAT DOES THE CENTER DEMAND? THIS METROPOLE, THE 'POWERS-THAT-BE', THE 1%. WHAT DO THEY WANT?
CNN
A COWED SILENCE, A FATALISTIC ACCEPTANCE, AS THEY MARCH US ALL TOWARDS OBLIVION?
hello, are you there?_

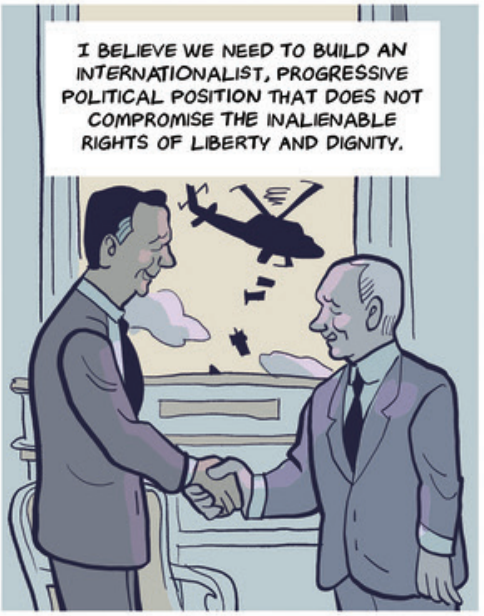
THE STARTING POINTS TO TELL STORIES FROM PALESTINE AND THE REGION ARE MANY, WITH EACH RESPECTIVELY ADDING THE SIGNIFICANT, INESCAPABLE WEIGHT OF HISTORY–
–CONTEXT THAT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD TO GRASP THE PRESENT DYNAMICS AND POTENTIALLY CARVE OUT A SALVAGEABLE, SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ALL.

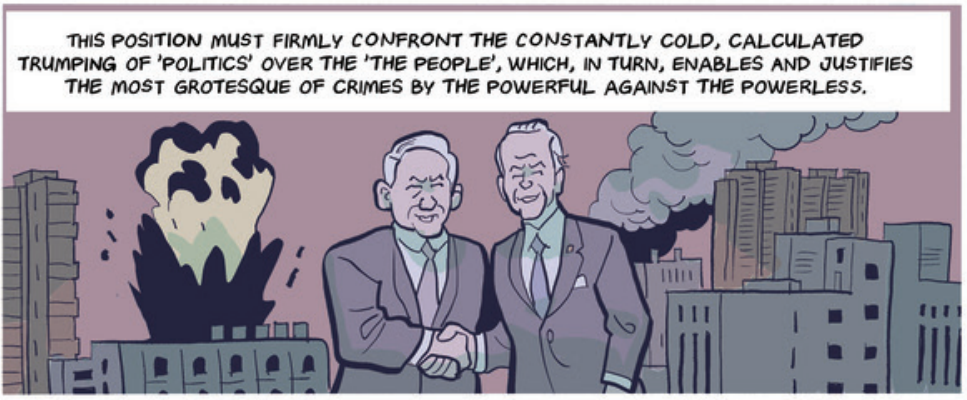
SYRIA
JORDAN
EGYPT
IT IS CRUCIAL TO KNOW THAT MUCH OF THE TRAUMAS BESETTING THIS REGION, AND PALESTINE AT ITS CORE, IN THIS VERY MOMENT, WERE BUILT BY EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL FORCES...

THE TOLL OF EACH EVENT CANNOT BE RECKONED WITH, NOR IS ANY SENSE OF HEALING ALLOWED BEFORE THE NEXT CATASTROPHE HITS, RUBBING SALT INTO FESTERING WOUNDS.

IT IS VITAL TO UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR PRESENT TIME ARISES FROM THE DEATH RATTLES OF A DECAYING POST- WWII ORDER...
...AND THE DRAMATIC REORIENTATION OCCURING WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA.


AS THE GLOBAL STAGE REORIENTS ITSELF, THE REGION HAS BECOME ONE OF THE EPICENTERS OF UPHEAVALS.
UNITED KINGDOM
UNITED STATES
WE HAVE REACHED A PRECIPICE IN WHICH AVAILABLE IDEOLOGIES, SPECTRA, IDEAS AND BELIEFS FALL SEVERELY SHORT OF THE NEEDS OF THE MANY.


I BELIEVE WE NEED TO BUILD AN INTERNATIONALIST, PROGRESSIVE POLITICAL POSITION THAT DOES NOT COMPROMISE THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF LIBERTY AND DIGNITY.


THIS POSITION MUST FIRMLY CONFRONT THE CONSTANTLY COLD, CALCULATED TRUMPING OF 'POLITICS' OVER THE 'THE PEOPLE', WHICH, IN TURN, ENABLES AND JUSTIFIES THE MOST GROTESQUE OF CRIMES BY THE POWERFUL AGAINST THE POWERLESS.

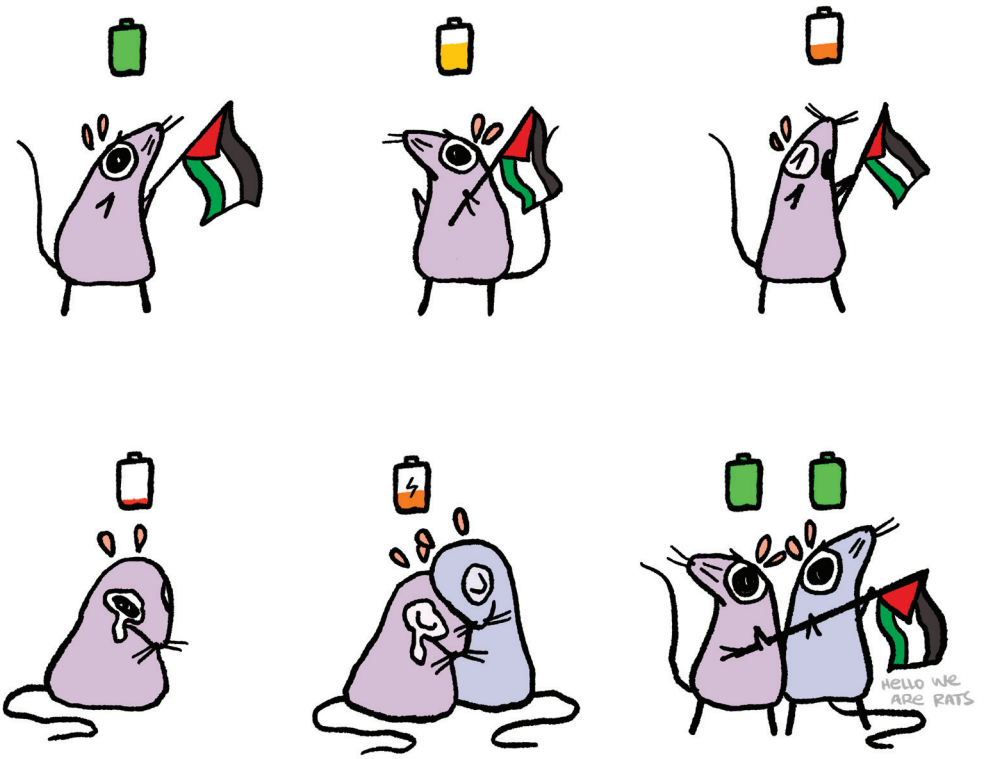
THIS IS AN URGENT WARNING, A HARBINGER THAT THE DIRE CONDITIONS ARE NOT LIMITED TO 'OVER THERE' AND AFFLICT 'THE OTHER'–
–BUT URGENTLY IMPACT EVERY SINGLE SOUL ON THIS PLANET.

BECAUSE, IN MY VIEW, SITUATED AT THE PERIPHERY, I SEE OUR WORLD– OUR ULTIMATE AND ONLY HOME– IS IN GRAVE DANGER.

CLIMATE CHANGE, ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION, TYRANNY AND WAR- THE EVER-ACCELERATING DEVELOPMENTS OF THE REGION NOW ECHO ACROSS THE WORLD, ALWAYS INTERTWINED.
THE ANSWER TO THE COUNTLESS CALAMITIES WE FACE WILL NOT COME FROM THE GOOD GRACES OR MORAL LEADERSHIP OF THOSE ABOVE...
THE STRUGGLES FOR BETTER TOMORROWS ALWAYS BEGIN FROM BELOW. ALWAYS.
DO YOU HEAR ME? ARE YOU THERE?

A CALL TO ARMS
WILL YOU FORGE AHEAD TOWARDS A MORE CARING, LOVING FUTURE FOR ALL...
...OR MARCH INTO OBLIVION?

Charge Together by Zhen



Collateral Damage by Jana Traboulsi

WE WOULD HAVE (ALMOST) BELIEVED
THEY WERE COLLATERAL DAMAGE
IF ONLY YOU HAD NOT BEEN TARGETING THEM
FOR DECADES.

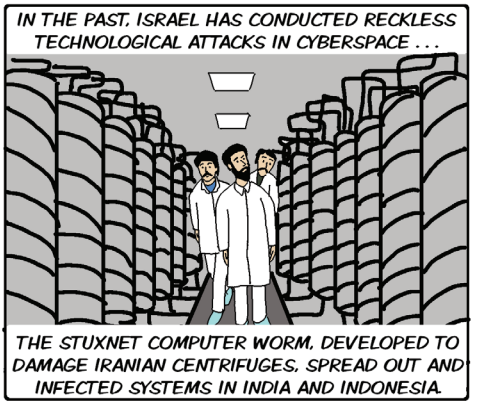
Quandary by Cooper Lit

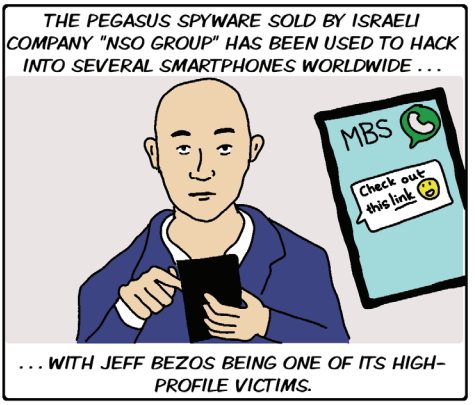
@cooperlitcomics cooperlit.com

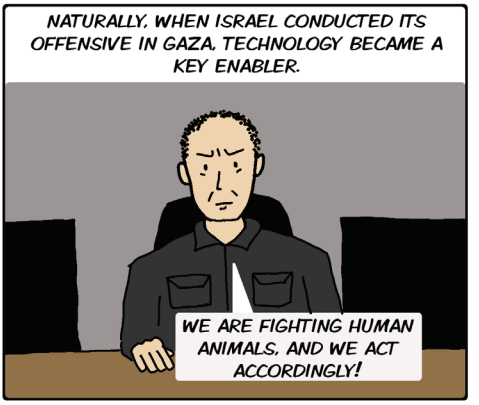
The Simple Question by Sarah Firth

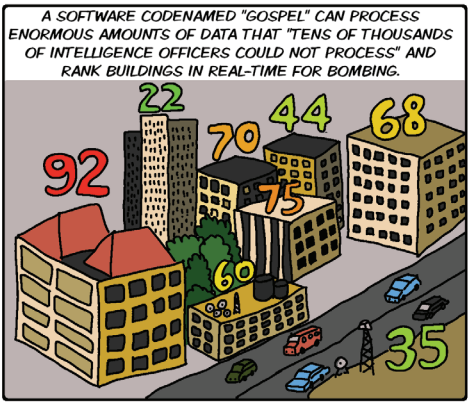
AMIDST the NOISE...
... the JUSTIFICATIONS...
... ISN'T the SIMPLE QUESTION...
... WHAT WOULD YOU DO if this WAS YOU?
WHAT WOULD YOU do if THIS WAS US?
IT IS.
END the OCCUPATION
CEASEFIRE NOW
BOYCOTT! DIVEST! SANCTIONS!
FREEDOM
JEWS for a FREE PALESTINE

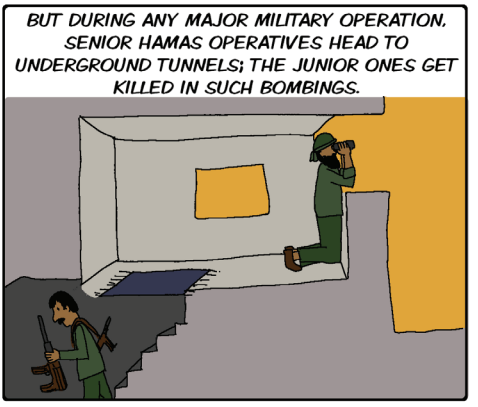
A Techno Genocide by Bala Seshasayee


IN THE PAST, ISRAEL HAS CONDUCTED RECKLESS TECHNOLOGICAL ATTACKS IN CYBERSPACE . . .
THE STUXNET COMPUTER WORM, DEVELOPED TO DAMAGE IRANIAN CENTRIFUGES, SPREAD OUT AND INFECTED SYSTEMS IN INDIA AND INDONESIA.

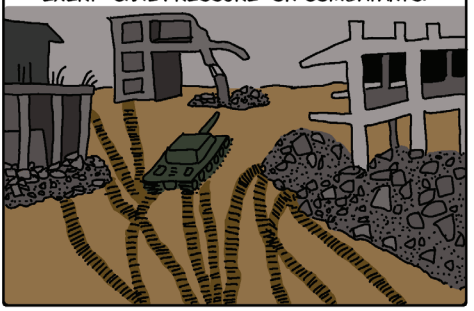

THE PEGASUS SPYWARE SOLD BY ISRAELI COMPANY "NSO GROUP" HAS BEEN USED TO HACK INTO SEVERAL SMARTPHONES WORLDWIDE . . .
MBS
Check out this link
. . . WITH JEFF BEZOS BEING ONE OF ITS HIGH-PROFILE VICTIMS.


NATURALLY, WHEN ISRAEL CONDUCTED ITS OFFENSIVE IN GAZA, TECHNOLOGY BECAME A KEY ENABLER.
WE ARE FIGHTING HUMAN ANIMALS, AND WE ACT ACCORDINGLY!




BUT DURING ANY MAJOR MILITARY OPERATION, SENIOR HAMAS OPERATIVES HEAD TO UNDERGROUND TUNNELS; THE JUNIOR ONES GET KILLED IN SUCH BOMBINGS.

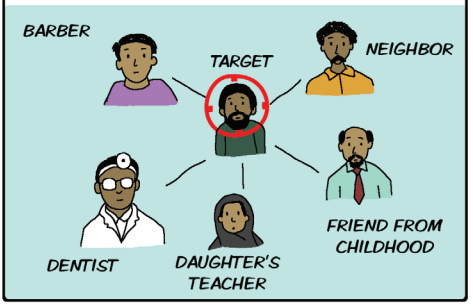
UNDER ISRAEL'S "DAHIYA DOCTRINE," CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS BANKS, UNIVERSITIES AND GOVT. OFFICES BECAME PRIME TARGETS, TO EXERT "CIVIL PRESSURE" ON COMBATANTS.



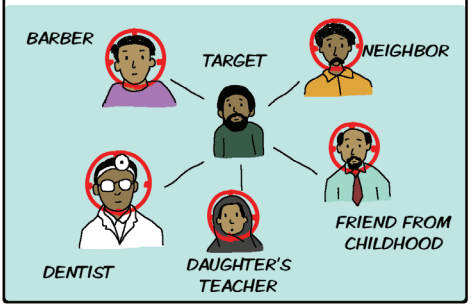
WITH THE HIGH BUILDING DENSITY IN GAZA, DESTROYING A BUILDING KILLS NOT ONLY THE TARGET, BUT ENTIRE FAMILIES IN THE SAME BUILDING TOO.

COLLATERAL DAMAGE ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL WAS ALSO INCREASED, LEADING TO SEVERAL MORE INNOCENTS BEING KILLED.

"LAVENDER" IS THE CODENAME FOR A SIMILAR SOFTWARE THAT OPERATES ON PEOPLE. TRAINED WITH INTELLIGENCE DATA ON HAMAS OPERATIVES -- WHATSAPP MESSAGES, CONTACTS, LOCATION TRACKING, ETC. GATHERED FROM MASS SURVEILLANCE, IT GENERATES SEVERAL HUNDRED TARGETS



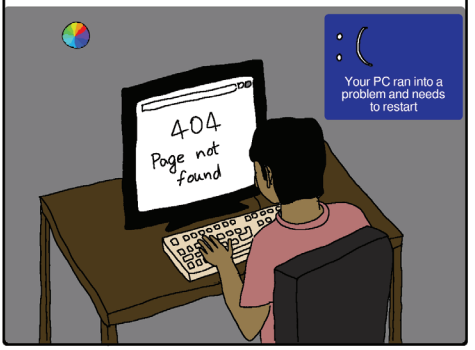
A HUMAN WAS SUPPOSED TO CROSS-CHECK IF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WERE LEGITIMATE, BUT THIS WAS SKIPPED ONCE 90% ACCURACY WAS REACHED. MANY INNOCENTS WERE INTENTIONALLY KILLED.



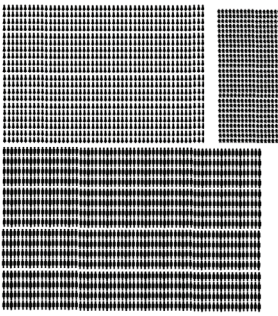
SAVING EXPENSIVE PRECISION-GUIDED "SMART BOMBS" FOR HIGH VALUE TARGETS, ISRAEL KILLED LOW-LEVEL TARGETS USING CHEAPER, UNGUIDED "DUMB BOMBS" WITH HIGHER COLLATERAL DAMAGE.

"WHERE'S DADDY" WAS A TRACKING SOFTWARE USED TO LOCATE COMBATANTS AS THEY ENTERED THEIR HOUSES. BUT DUE TO ITS INACCURACIES AND DELAYS, IT OFTEN ENDED UP KILLING A TARGET'S ENTIRE FAMILY WHEN THE TARGET WAS NOT EVEN HOME.

ONE IS QUITE USED TO DEALING WITH SOFTWARE ERRORS THAT ARE FRUSTRATING AT WORST . . .



BUT ERRORS MADE BY THESE SOFTWARE HAVE RESULTED IN WOMEN, CHILDREN AND NON-COMBATANTS PAYING THE HEAVIEST PRICE.



DEATH COUNT AS OF MAY 2024:
15,000 CHILDREN
9,500 WOMEN
10,500 MEN
80,000 INJURED

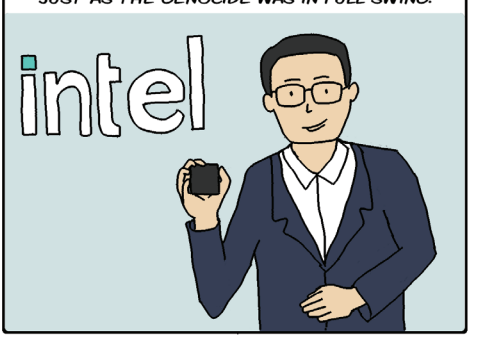
THESE SOFTWARE ARE BELIEVED TO BE RUNNING ON THE $1.2 BILLION "PROJECT NIMBUS" COMPUTING INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILT BY GOOGLE AND AMAZON.

OPPOSITION FOR THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN AROUND SINCE **JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE** AND **MPOWER CHANGE LAUNCHED** "NO TECH FOR APARTHEID" IN 2021.

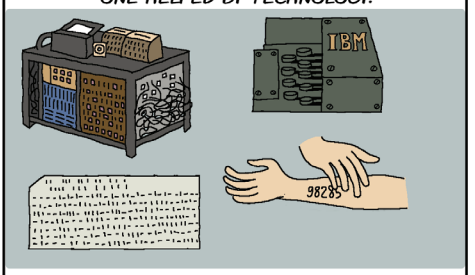
THIS OPPOSITION ONLY INTENSIFIED WITH THE DEEPENING OF GAZA OFFENSIVE. SEVERAL EMPLOYEES DEMANDED GOOGLE TO SEVER TIES WITH THE PROJECT.

GOOGLE RETALIATED BY FIRING 50 EMPLOYEES.

SEPARATELY, INTEL FINALIZED A $25 BILLION DEAL TO BUILD A CHIP FACTORY IN ISRAEL, ODDLY TIMED JUST AS THE GENOCIDE WAS IN FULL SWING.



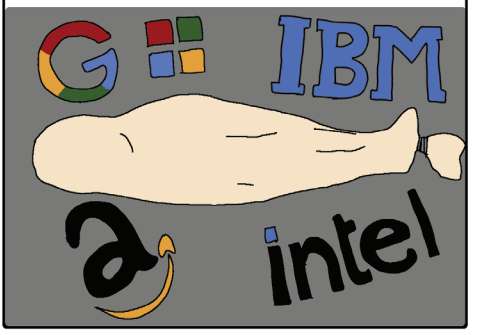
NOTABLY, THE GAZA GENOCIDE IS NOT THE FIRST ONE HELPED BY TECHNOLOGY.



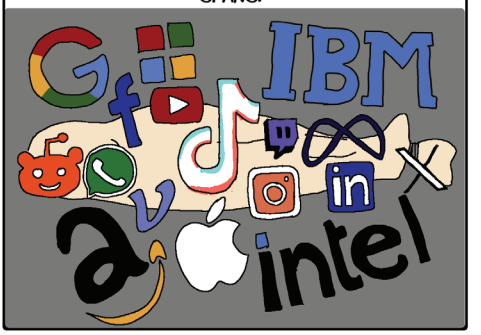
IBM FACILITATED NAZI GERMANY'S USE OF PUNCH CARDS FOR MILITARY LOGISTICS, GHETTO STATISTICS AND CONCENTRATION CAMP CAPACITY.

LATER, IBM ALSO BYPASSED SANCTIONS TO HELP APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA CONDUCT CENSUS AND CONTROL THE MOVEMENT, RESIDENCE AND WORK OF BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS.

PERHAPS TODAY'S TECH COMPANIES HOPE THEIR COMPLICITY WITH ISRAEL WILL ALSO BE EVENTUALLY FORGOTTEN . . .



. . . WITH PLENTY OF HELP FROM MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND OUR SHORT ATTENTION SPANS.



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But Hamas! by Urjuen

HOW CAN YOU, A FEMINIST, SUPPORT PALESTINE? HAMAS RAPED, BEHEADED AND ATE BABIES! THEY WOULD RAPE YOU TOO!
A LOT OF THOSE CLAIMS HAVE BEEN DEBUNKED MANY TIMES BUT EVEN IF TRUE, DOES IT JUSTIFY THE MURDER OF 30,000 PALESTINIANS, 70% OF WHOM ARE WOMEN AND CHILDREN?
WELL A
I REMEMBER YOUR POSTS ABOUT AFGHAN AND IRANIAN WOMEN. WHY NOT SPEAK UP FOR PALESTINIAN WOMEN TOO?
DO MUSLIM WOMEN ONLY MATTER WHEN IT'S ABOUT SAVING THEM FROM THE HIJAB TO SIGNAL THE SUPERIORITY OF YOUR WESTERN VALUES?
ACTUAL
CAN'T YOU SEE HOW THEY ONLY HOLD VALUE TO YOU WHEN THEY ALIGN WITH YOUR COUNTRY'S NEOCOLONIAL AGENDA?

BUT HAMAS!

How Are We To Live In This World? by Ellen O'Grady

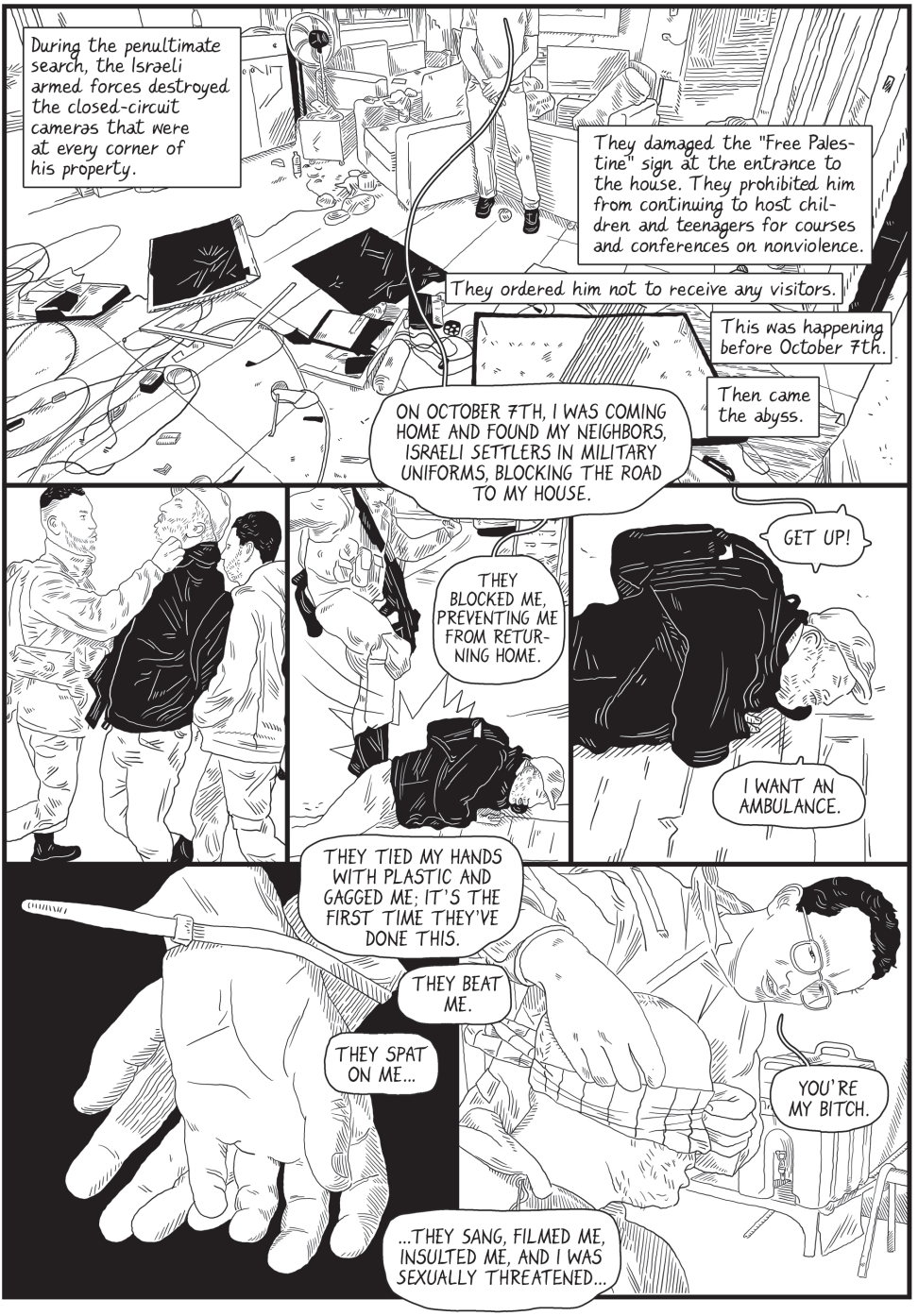
A family I know in Gaza City runs a bakery.
In recent years, some of their neighbors have been bringing over food to cook in their oven.
"Thank you."
"It is nothing."
Because these neighbors haven't been able to afford fuel due to the Israeli blockade on Gaza.
Yesterday ~~this~~ afternoon, their neighborhood was bombed. Apartment buildings with people in them.
when those who were out returned, they used their hands to dig for loved ones.
There are no machines to help. No air-lifts. Their hands are all they have.
I keep asking myself:
How are we to live in this world?
The answers, today, are:
Keep looking for beauty and connection.
Fight for those still alive.
Take whatever fire you have and share it for as long as you have it.
10-12-23

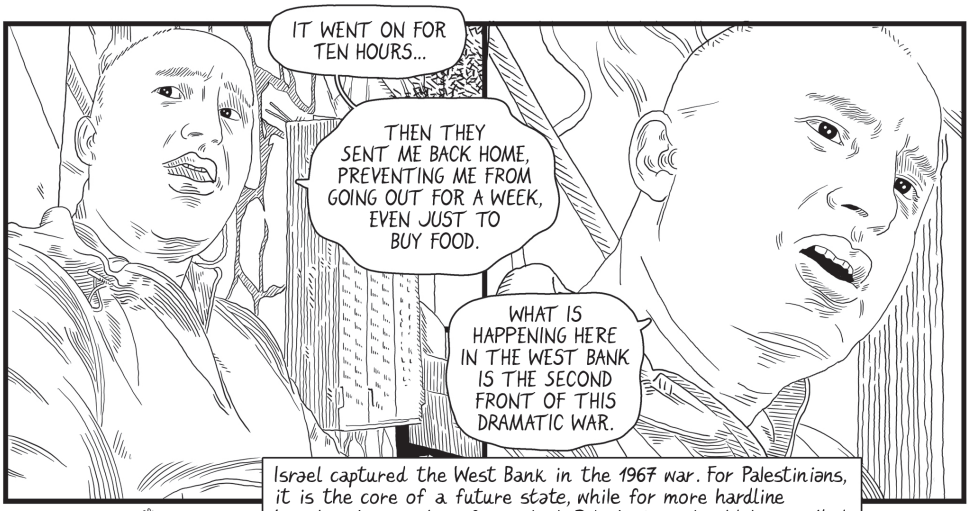
For Sale by Douglas Lambert

Issa by Francesca Mannocchi and Gianluca Costantini

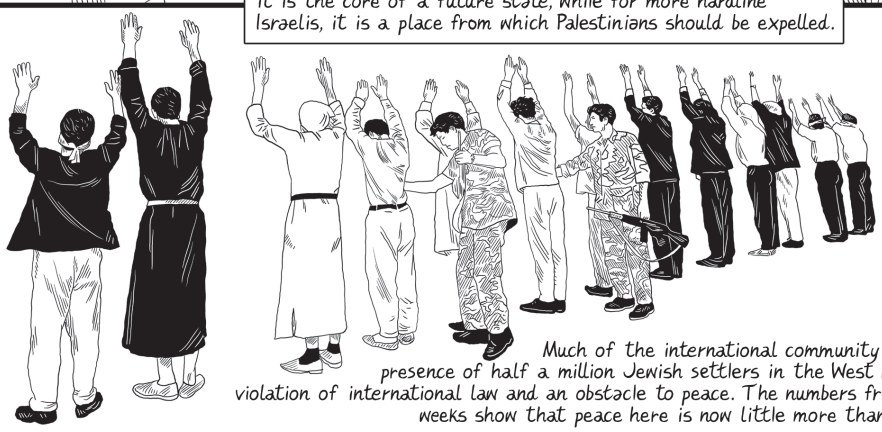
ISRAELI SETTLERS DRIVE FREELY. THEY MOVE FREELY. THEY HAVE GUESTS.
A NORMAL LIFE.
WE PALESTINIANS IN HEBRON LIVE ISOLATED, LOCKED INSIDE OUR HOMES.
WE CAN'T DRIVE, WE CAN'T OPEN OUR SHOPS.
MANY OF US CAN'T RECEIVE VISITORS.
Issa Amro, a well-known activist of the Palestinian non-violent resistance, summarizes the life of Palestinians in Hebron for me.
They share the space with hundreds of occupying settlers, uncompromising Jews.
They are forced to live in the heart of the city, in heavily fortified areas monitored by Israeli troops.
He crosses the city's pedestrian checkpoint, passes through the turnstiles, presents his document, walks through the scanner, and then undergoes facial recognition. Every day, the checkpoint is a gamble.
Crossing it depends on the rules of the day. It could be closed, or for security reasons, access may be denied to some residents.

This happens to Issa often.
He lives in Tel Rumeida, a mixed neighborhood in the center of Hebron—home to both Israelis and Palestinians—although in recent decades almost all Palestinian families have been expelled.
IT WAS ALREADY DIFFICULT BEFORE, BUT AFTER OCTOBER 7, THE RESTRICTIONS HAVE MULTIPLIED.
THE CHECKPOINTS HAVE INCREASED. THE SETTLERS OCCUPYING THE CITY HAVE RECEIVED WEAPONS OR HAVE JOINED THE ARMY: FANATICISM IS PREVAILING.
Along the road leading to his home, there are only soldiers.
The homes of Palestinians are surrounded by nets as tall as the buildings.
It is the only way to protect themselves from stone-throwing and the increasingly frequent attacks in the only city where settlers and Palestinians are forced to live together.
Issa's home has become a cage.
He has bricked up every space that faces outside: the windows, the entrance gate, the outdoor area. That was where he used to organize workshops with the local children.
He has fenced the garden with metal mesh and covered it with plastic tarps to avoid being seen.


During the penultimate search, the Israeli armed forces destroyed the closed-circuit cameras that were at every corner of his property.
They damaged the "Free Palestine" sign at the entrance to the house. They prohibited him from continuing to host children and teenagers for courses and conferences on nonviolence.
They ordered him not to receive any visitors.
This was happening before October 7th.
Then came the abyss.
ON OCTOBER 7TH, I WAS COMING HOME AND FOUND MY NEIGHBORS, ISRAELI SETTLERS IN MILITARY UNIFORMS, BLOCKING THE ROAD TO MY HOUSE.
THEY BLOCKED ME, PREVENTING ME FROM RETURNING HOME.
GET UP!
I WANT AN AMBULANCE.
THEY TIED MY HANDS WITH PLASTIC AND GAGGED ME; IT'S THE FIRST TIME THEY'VE DONE THIS.
THEY BEAT ME.
THEY SPAT ON ME...
YOU'RE MY BITCH.
...THEY SANG, FILMED ME, INSULTED ME, AND I WAS SEXUALLY THREATENED...


IT WENT ON FOR TEN HOURS...
THEN THEY SENT ME BACK HOME, PREVENTING ME FROM GOING OUT FOR A WEEK, EVEN JUST TO BUY FOOD.
WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE IN THE WEST BANK IS THE SECOND FRONT OF THIS DRAMATIC WAR.

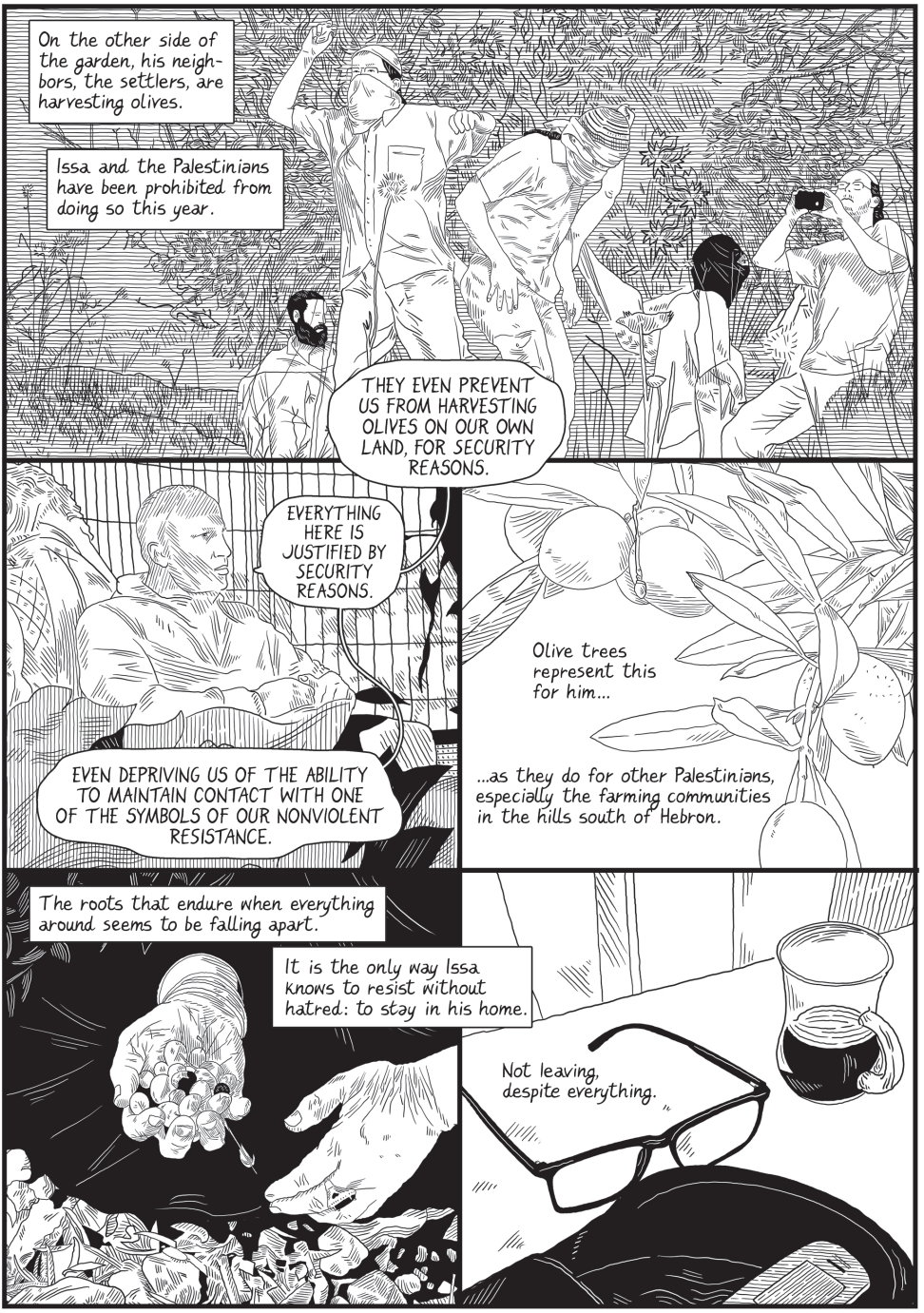
Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 war. For Palestinians, it is the core of a future state, while for more hardline Israelis, it is a place from which Palestinians should be expelled.



Much of the international community views the presence of half a million Jewish settlers in the West Bank as a violation of international law and an obstacle to peace. The numbers from recent weeks show that peace here is now little more than a utopia.

After October 7th, the Israeli army intensified raids throughout the West Bank.
Hundreds of Palestinians have been arrested, including many minors, and attacks by settlers have increased.
Sport
Issa Amro has been stopped and arrested multiple times by the Israeli army—last year he was beaten while hosting Lawrence Wright, the renowned writer and journalist from The New Yorker—but until now, he had never been removed from his home.

I HAVE SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE BELIEVING IN NON-VIOLENCE, AND I CONTINUE TO DO SO.
I WANT TO SAY IT OUT LOUD: THE MAJORITY OF PALESTINIANS ARE OPPOSED TO THE KIDNAPPING OF ISRAELI HOSTAGES.
WE CRIED WHEN WE SAW THE KIDNAPPED CIVILIANS BECAUSE WE ARE EXPERIENCING THE SAME THING.
Every day he thinks about the thousands of Palestinian victims under the relentless bombardments.
He feels helpless and frustrated. But he does not give in to the easy and harmful path of hatred.
I AM 43 YEARS OLD, AND FOR MY ENTIRE LIFE, I HAVE LIVED UNDER OCCUPATION, SHARING MY SPACE WITH SETTLERS.
I HAVE BELIEVED AND WANT TO CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IN DIALOGUE.
BECAUSE WE WANT A STATE.
WE WANT TO BE TREATED WITH FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND DEMOCRACY.
WE WANT RESPECT FOR OUR HUMANITY.
While he speaks, a drone flies over his house.
The Israeli armed forces have probably noticed that Issa has received visitors.
The last time, a week before, a group of Australian journalists was quickly expelled.


On the other side of the garden, his neighbors, the settlers, are harvesting olives.
Issa and the Palestinians have been prohibited from doing so this year.
THEY EVEN PREVENT US FROM HARVESTING OLIVES ON OUR OWN LAND, FOR SECURITY REASONS.
EVERYTHING HERE IS JUSTIFIED BY SECURITY REASONS.
EVEN DEPRIVING US OF THE ABILITY TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH ONE OF THE SYMBOLS OF OUR NONVIOLENT RESISTANCE.
Olive trees represent this for him...
...as they do for other Palestinians, especially the farming communities in the hills south of Hebron.
The roots that endure when everything around seems to be falling apart.
It is the only way Issa knows to resist without hatred: to stay in his home.
Not leaving, despite everything.

Jews Are Feeling Unsafe by David Blumenstein

"JEWS ARE FEELING UNSAFE"

This is made by a Jew for Jews. If you are not Jewish you must not see it. Close your eyes. Do not take internally.

A Jewish Person's Handy Safety Guide -- Keep With You at All Times

כשר

1. Are you feeling unsafe right now?

2. Look around. Are you in immediate physical danger?

MOVE AWAY FROM DANGER

3. Is there a university student inside your home?

YOU ARE SAFE
That's just your nephew, writing his thesis on decolonising Ethereum.

4. Is someone near you saying "Free Palestine"?

YOU ARE SAFE
They are angry at the Israeli government, who are murdering thousands.

5. Is someone near you Kanye?

YOU MAY BE UNSAFE
Excuse yourself, while expressing admiration for his lesser albums.

6. Are you supportive of the Israeli government in its murder of innocent people?

YOU ARE SAFE
Most media outlets also see these seemingly endless murders as justified.

7. Are you visiting "Free Palestine" protests just to tell them how much you support Israel murdering innocent people?

YOU ARE SAFE
The vast majority of protesters aren't violent.

8. Are you within 1000kms of an Israeli military operation?

YOU ARE UNSAFE
Being Jewish won't actually help you.

9. Is a fascist influencer expressing solidarity with you?

YOU ARE UNSAFE
These people make virtually everyone unsafe.

10. Is a politician pledging to make your community safe?

YOU ARE UNSAFE
Unless you are donating $1000s to him regularly.

11. Are you taking part in a "Free Palestine" protest?

YOU ARE UNSAFE
Police may beat you -- or let others do it.

12. Are you safe but still feeling unsafe?

REVIEW YOUR INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA
Consider finding a non-Zionist shrink.

13. Are you fearful because you know how outraged you would be if an army did this to your community?

14. Is your fear based upon stories told by "community leaders" inside your bubble?

15. Are you incapable of empathy with anyone outside the bubble?

YOU'RE UNSAFE. WE'RE ALL UNSAFE

DB '24

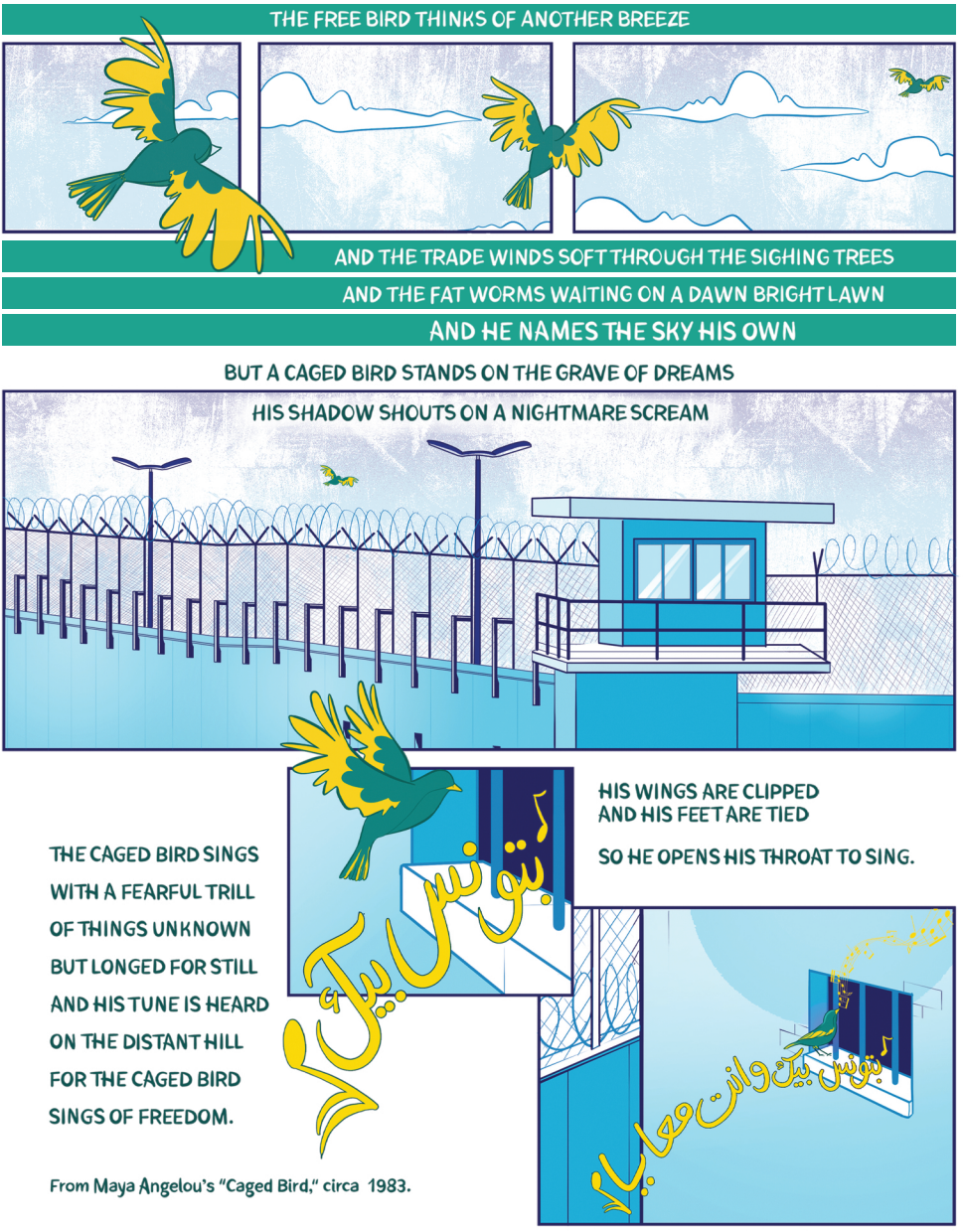
How Much? by Jennifer Camper

HOW MUCH OF YOUR U.S. TAX DOLLARS DO YOU WANT ALLOCATED FOR BULLETS?
HOW MUCH FOR BOMBS?
HOW MUCH TO DESTROY HOMES?
HOSPITALS?
SCHOOLS?
HOW MUCH FOR KILLING CHILDREN?
HOW MUCH OF YOUR U.S. TAX DOLLARS DO YOU WANT ALLOCATED TO CLEAN UP THE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY YOUR U.S. TAX DOLLARS?
HOW MUCH TO HEAL THE TRAUMA?
CAMPER

The Caged Bird Sings of Freedom

by Yazan al-Saadi and Sirene Moukheiber

First published in *Upping the Anti*, Issue 23 November 2022

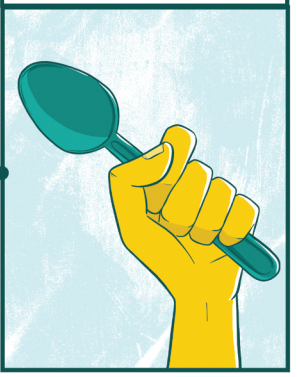

THE FREE BIRD THINKS OF ANOTHER BREEZE
AND THE TRADE WINDS SOFT THROUGH THE SIGHING TREES
AND THE FAT WORMS WAITING ON A DAWN BRIGHT LAWN
AND HE NAMES THE SKY HIS OWN
BUT A CAGED BIRD STANDS ON THE GRAVE OF DREAMS
HIS SHADOW SHOUTS ON A NIGHTMARE SCREAM
HIS WINGS ARE CLIPPED
AND HIS FEET ARE TIED
SO HE OPENS HIS THROAT TO SING.
THE CAGED BIRD SINGS
WITH A FEARFUL TRILL
OF THINGS UNKNOWN
BUT LONGED FOR STILL
AND HIS TUNE IS HEARD
ON THE DISTANT HILL
FOR THE CAGED BIRD
SINGS OF FREEDOM.
From Maya Angelou's "Caged Bird," circa 1983.
بتونس بيك
بتونس بيك وانت صابر

Around 4,650 Palestinians, 200 of whom are children, are held by Israel in its modern-day dungeons.

The plight of Palestinian prisoners came into focus after the daring escape of six prisoners from a high-tech maximum security compound - **Gilboa prison** - located in northern historical Palestine.

BREAKING NEWS

It took a rusty spoon, coupled with patience, planning, effort, and a spiteful stubborn desire for liberty to undermine – **for a sliver of a moment** – the frail illusion of Israeli omnipotence and supremacy over Palestinian lives.



At the time of this writing, all six have been recaptured by the Zionist state's security forces.

Israel's revenge over this Palestinian defiance was brutal and swift. Not only were the prisoners' family members and almost a hundred Palestinians arrested as a form of collective punishment and pressure, the recaptured men were also tortured – bones broken, faces cut and bruised, and their sleep-deprived, naked bodies forced into inhumane stress positions.

Despite being recaptured and experiencing further abuses, according to one of their lawyers, these six men expressed their joy that they were able to be outside the prison walls under the open blue sky.

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I WAS TAKEN PRISONER 22 YEARS AGO, I WAS ABLE TO EAT PRICKLY PEARS FROM A FIELD. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I WAS ABLE TO WALK AROUND AND SEE HISTORIC PALESTINE.

Mahmoud Al-Arda

Since the launch of its incremental genocide on Palestinians in 1947-48,

Israel has been, and continues to be, a carceral state par excellence.

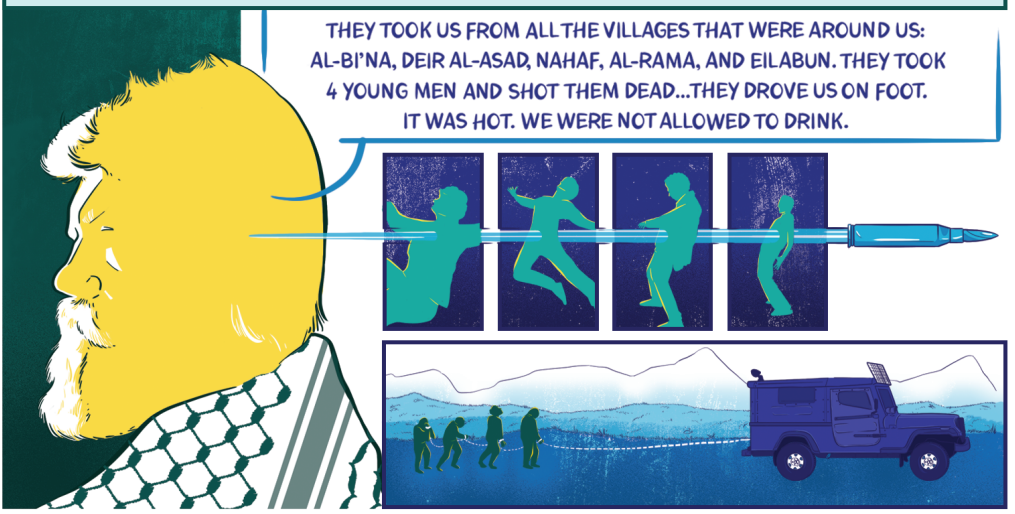
Between 1948 to 1955

Zionist forces had established at least

22 CONCENTRATION & LABOR CAMPS

4 OF WHICH WERE "OFFICIAL".

One Palestinian survivor, **Moussa** (or Moses in English), described decades later what he witnessed at that time.

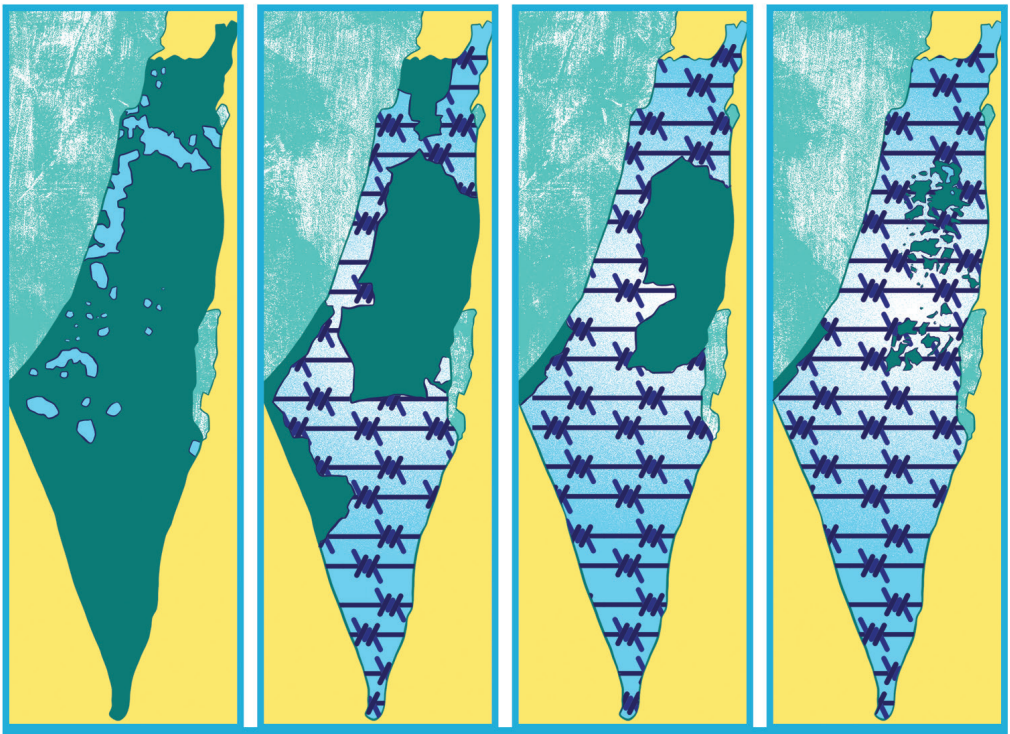

THEY TOOK US FROM ALL THE VILLAGES THAT WERE AROUND US: AL-BI'NA, DEIR AL-ASAD, NAHAF, AL-RAMA, AND EILABUN. THEY TOOK 4 YOUNG MEN AND SHOT THEM DEAD...THEY DROVE US ON FOOT. IT WAS HOT. WE WERE NOT ALLOWED TO DRINK.

Another survivor, **Kamal Ghattas**, noted an interesting ideological irony that occurred in one of the concentration camps.

WE HAD A FIGHT WITH OUR JAILERS. FOUR HUNDRED OF US CONFRONTED 100 SOLDIERS. THEY BROUGHT REINFORCEMENTS. THREE OF MY FRIENDS AND I WERE TAKEN TO A CELL. THEY THREATENED TO SHOOT US. ALL NIGHT WE SANG THE COMMUNIST ANTHEM. THEY TOOK THE FOUR OF US TO UMM KHALED CAMP. THE ISRAELIS WERE AFRAID OF THEIR IMAGE IN EUROPE. OUR CONTACT WITH OUR CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND MAPAM [SOCIALIST ISRAELI PARTY] SAVED US ...
I MET A RUSSIAN OFFICER AND TOLD HIM THEY TOOK US FROM OUR HOMES ALTHOUGH WE WERE NON-COMBATANTS WHICH WAS AGAINST THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS. WHEN HE KNEW I WAS A COMMUNIST, HE EMBRACED ME AND SAID:
COMRADE, I HAVE TWO BROTHERS IN THE RED ARMY. LONG LIVE STALIN. LONG LIVE MOTHER RUSSIA.

The biggest irony, which continues to this date, is that many of the Zionist prison guards were themselves prisoners in Nazi Germany's concentration and labor camps a few years prior.

Israel's carceral system expanded considerably after it launched the 1967 war to conquer more land.



Since 1967, around 40% of the Palestinian male population have been jailed by the Zionist state. In total, at least one million Palestinians have been arrested since 1967, including

17 000 WOMEN

50 000 CHILDREN

& MORE THAN 54 000 PALESTINIANS UNDERWENT ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION

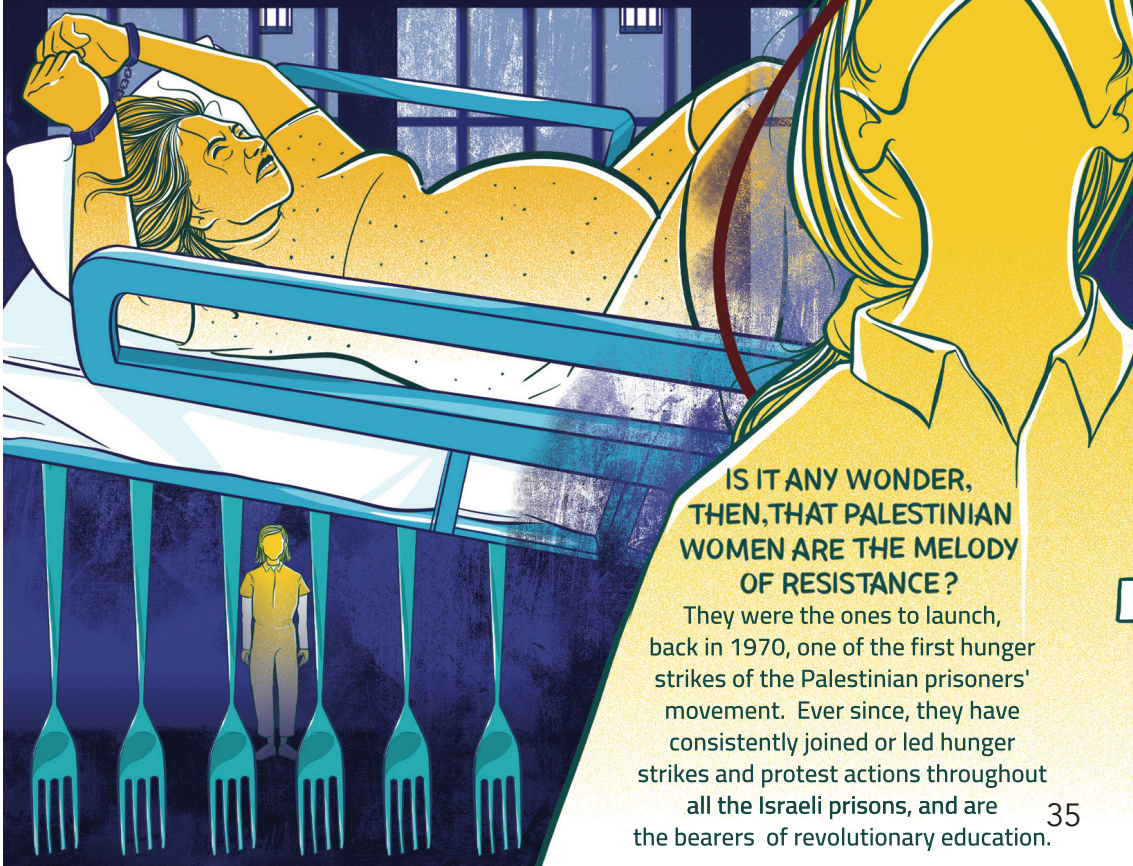
This is the highest rate of incarceration in the world with around 15-20 Palestinians on average arrested by Israeli forces every day.

At least 226 detainees have died inside Israel prisons, all of whom reportedly experienced "some form of physical or psychological torture, moral abuse, and cruel treatment" before they perished.

Palestinian women, in particular, are brutally targeted by Israel. They are threatened with rape and sexual abuse by the guards and their interrogators; their cultural and societal practices are actively disrespected; they have experienced physical and psychological torture during the detention process; and are often deprived of any family visitations.

Their overall and specific medical needs are disregarded – hence, around 25% of Palestinian female prisoners suffer from treatable diseases.

Detained pregnant Palestinian women are forced to give birth, shackled in metal chains, with no family allowed. After giving birth, they are immediately transferred **– with the baby –** back to their overcrowded, unhygienic prison cells.



IS IT ANY WONDER, THEN, THAT PALESTINIAN WOMEN ARE THE MELODY OF RESISTANCE?

They were the ones to launch, back in 1970, one of the first hunger strikes of the Palestinian prisoners' movement. Ever since, they have consistently joined or led hunger strikes and protest actions throughout all the Israeli prisons, and are the bearers of revolutionary education.

As **Khalida Jarrar,** a Palestinian feminist, leftist, Parliamentarian, and recently released prisoner, who had experienced frequent administrative detention since 2014 by Israel, once said:

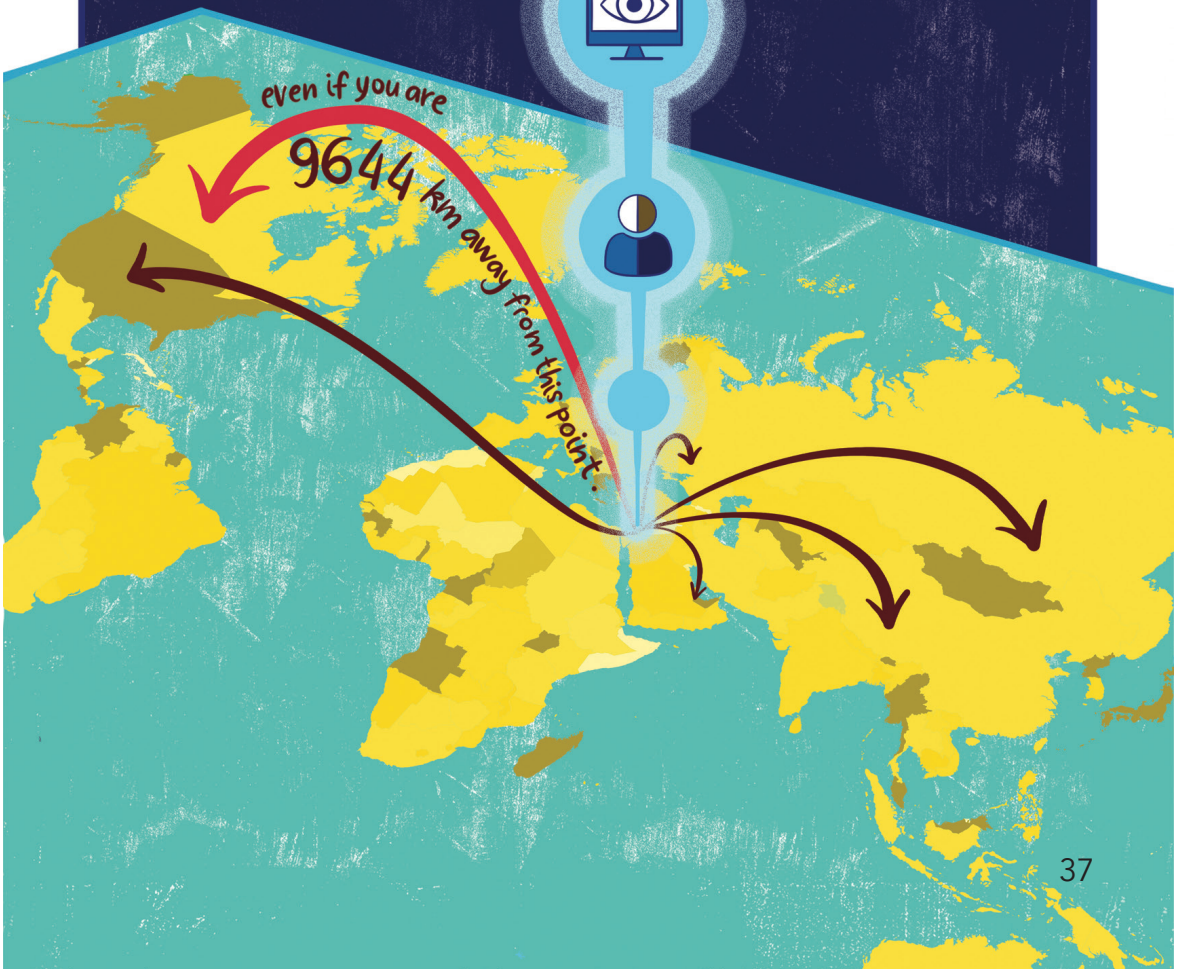
IN PRISON, WE CHALLENGE THE ABUSIVE PRISON GUARD TOGETHER, WITH THE SAME WILL AND DETERMINATION TO BREAK HIM SO THAT HE DOES NOT BREAK US...
PRISON IS THE ART OF EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES; IT IS A SCHOOL THAT TRAINS YOU TO SOLVE DAILY CHALLENGES USING THE SIMPLEST AND MOST CREATIVE MEANS, WHETHER IT BE FOOD PREPARATION, MENDING OLD CLOTHES OR FINDING COMMON GROUND SO THAT WE MAY ALL ENDURE AND SURVIVE TOGETHER.

FOR PALESTINIANS, THE PRISON IS A MICROCOSM OF THE MUCH LARGER STRUGGLE OF A PEOPLE WHO REFUSE TO BE ENSLAVED ON THEIR OWN LAND, AND WHO ARE DETERMINED TO REGAIN THEIR FREEDOM, WITH THE SAME WILL AND VIGOR CARRIED BY ALL TRIUMPHANT, ONCE-COLONIZED NATIONS.

The Israeli practice of monitoring and caging an Indigenous population became an art form, a much-sought after commodity to export to other states, from the US to Myanmar, China to the UAE.

The Zionist state is an epicenter in providing and training repressive states with sophisticated forms of total surveillance and infiltration, systematic practices in racial profiling, and normalizing military applications of force against popular protests.

you are not immune to this



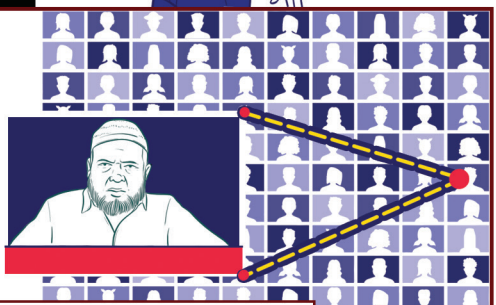
Officials say that Canada and Israel share a long history as close friends with similar core values.

From above, they have "circled the wagons", as it were...

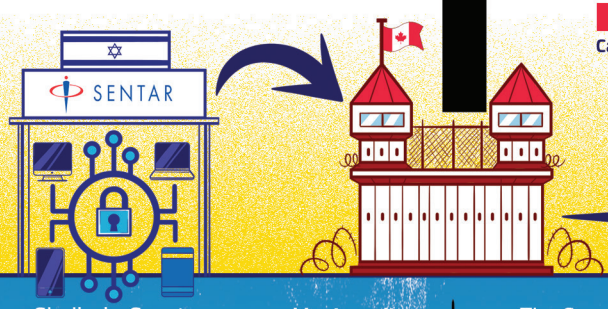
For example, Canadian police-chiefs are regularly hosted by the Israeli police and the Israeli Ministry of Internal Security.

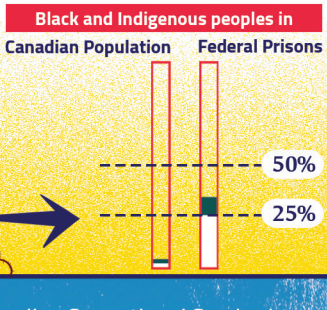
As these forces learn from each other, the result is bloody for the rest of us. Think of **the case of Ejaz Choudry**, who suffered from schizophrenia and was killed in his own home by the Peel Regional Police on June 20, 2020.

The blatant misuse of power and excessive use of deadly force is enshrined in the training programs between the Israeli and Canadian security forces.



You, me, any of us could be Choudry...





Similarly, Senstar – **owned by Israel's Magal Security Systems** – has a major manufacturing facility in Carp, Ontario. It is a key provider of perimeter security equipment for the Canadian Correctional Service.

The Canadian Correctional Service is notoriously discriminatory – in which Indigenous and Black people account for only **4.8%** and **3.5%** of the Canadian population yet make up **25.5%** and **8.7%** respectively in federal prisons.

Meanwhile, Canadian firms manufacture key components and training simulators for Israel's surveillance and weapon systems.
CONTRACT
APPROVED

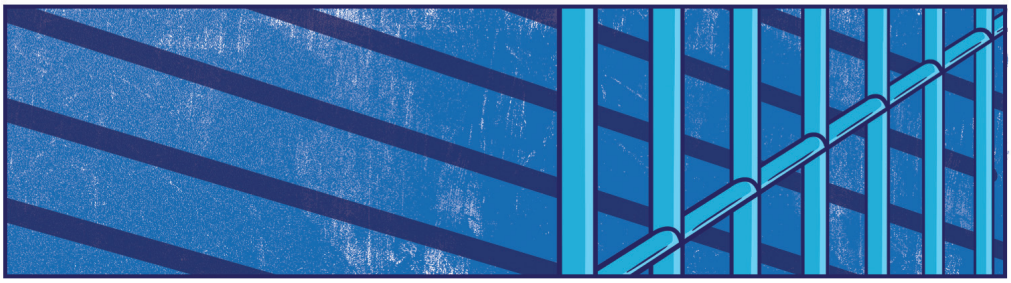
$6.5 BILLION

are invested by Canadian contracts with Israel - including the Canadian Pension Plan, Ontario Teachers Pension Plan, Quebec Pension Plan, the Public Sector Pension Investments, and the Ontario Municipal Employees.

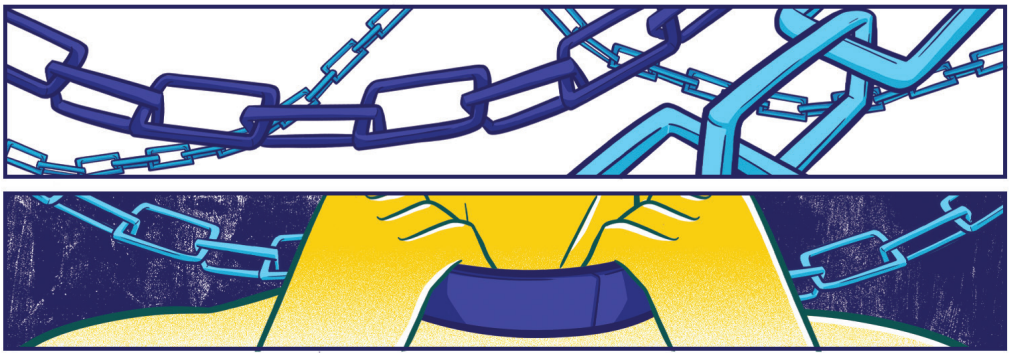
Oh yes, Canada has been complicit since the very beginning of Israel's incremental genocide of the Palestinians, and still is today....

DO YOU SEE HOW WE ARE ALL BONDED TOGETHER
– TURTLE ISLAND TO PALESTINE –
BY MISERABLE HOOK OR SPITEFUL CROOK?

DO YOU SEE THE LARGER CAGE ENCASING US?

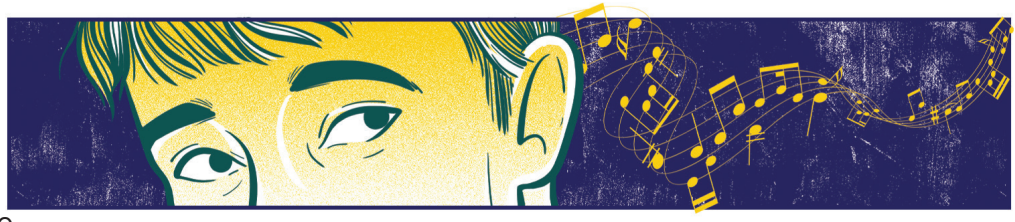


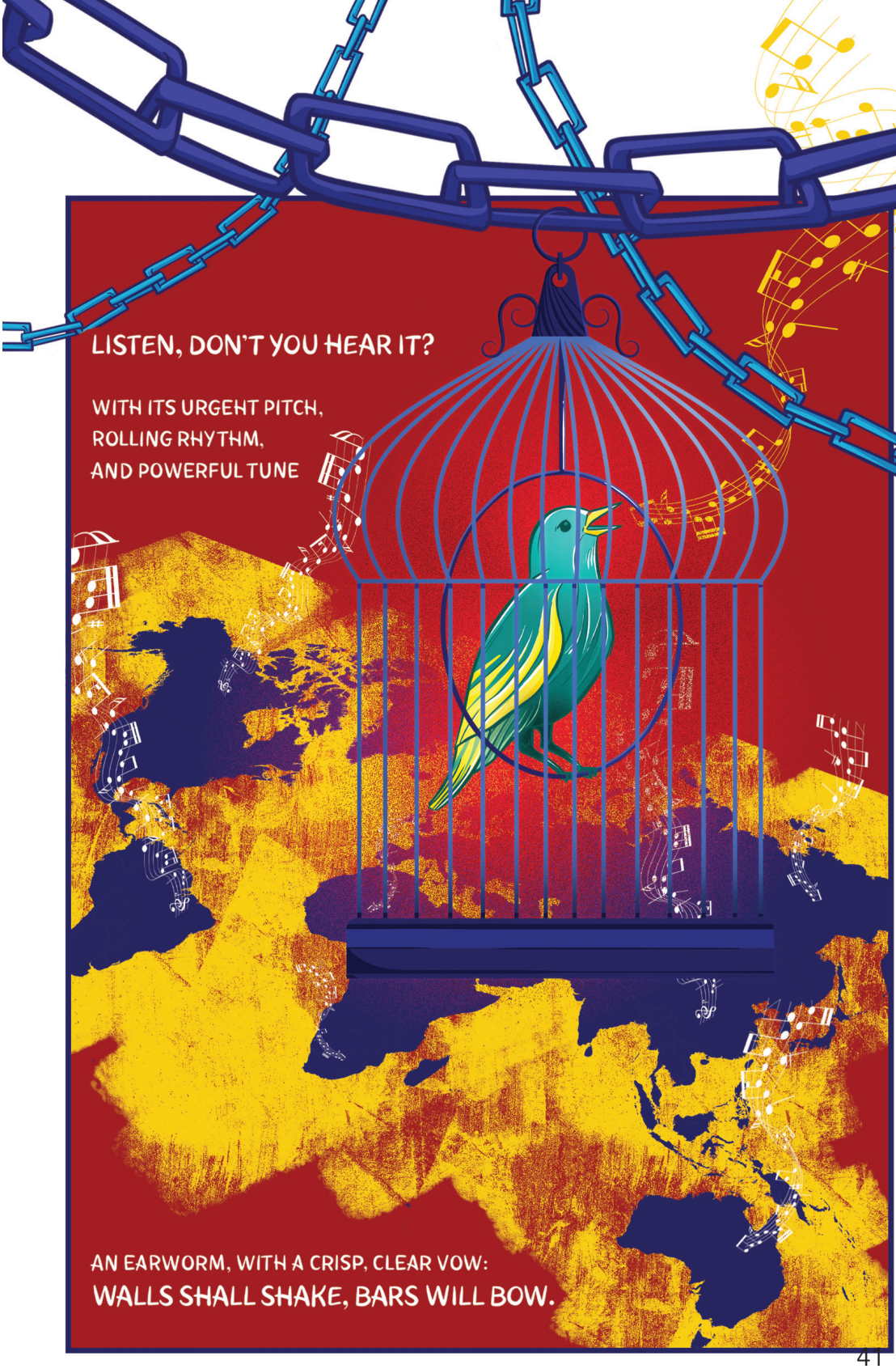
DO YOU SEE THE CHAINS FORGED AROUND OUR NECKS?



THE POWERS-THAT-BE ARE PLANNING WICKED DESIGNS
FOR THIS NEW CENTURY;
SHOULDN'T WE WORK TOGETHER TO RESPOND
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE?

DO YOU NOT HEAR THE SONG BEING SUNG?




LISTEN, DON'T YOU HEAR IT?
WITH ITS URGENT PITCH,
ROLLING RHYTHM,
AND POWERFUL TUNE
AN EARWORM, WITH A CRISP, CLEAR VOW:
WALLS SHALL SHAKE, BARS WILL BOW.

Put Up/Take Down by Solomon J. Brager

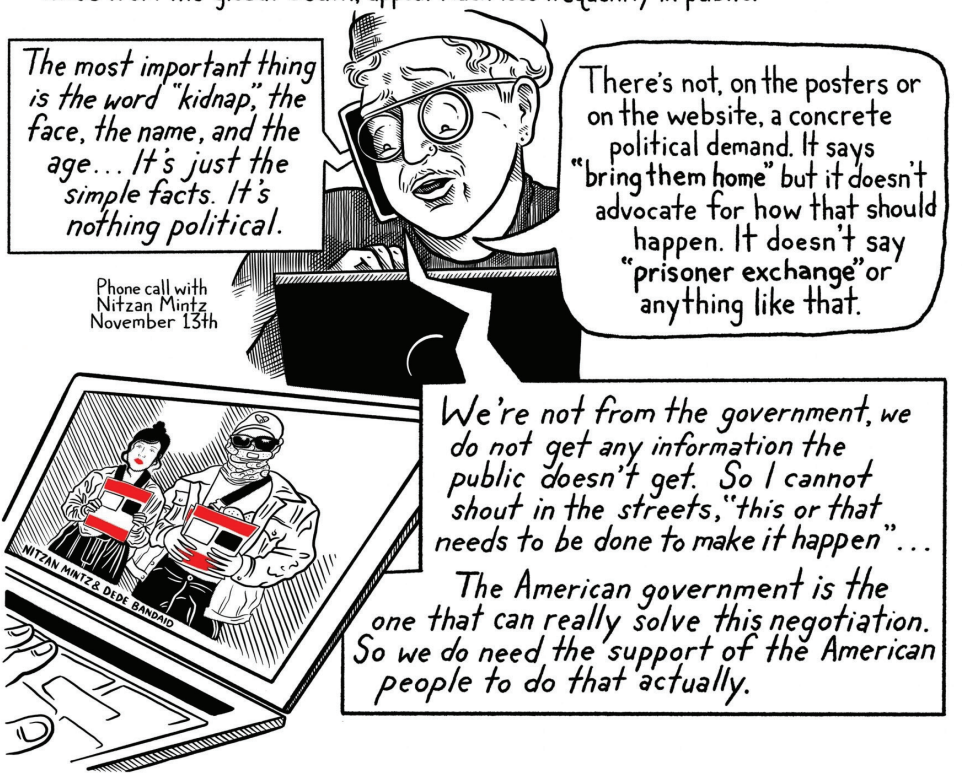
First published in *Jewish Currents*, February 2024

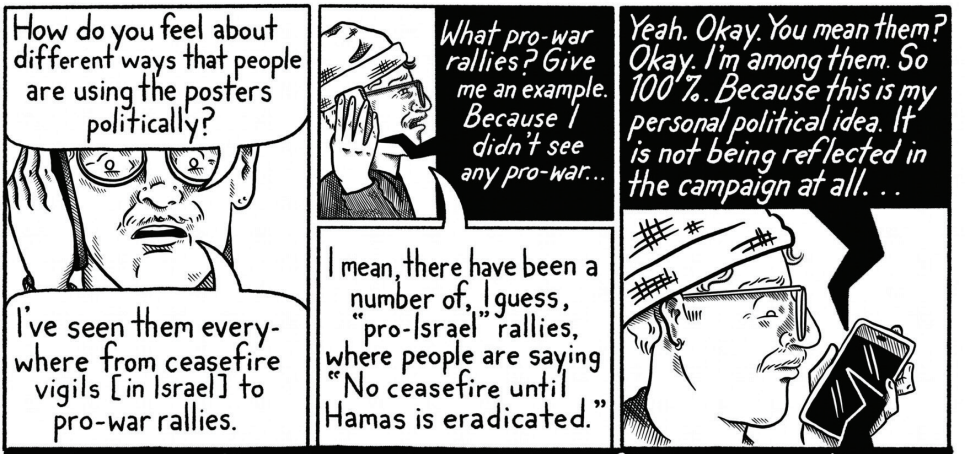
I first encountered them in Times Square a couple of weeks after October 7th...
284 unread messages
PUT UP/ TAKE DOWN
A HOSTAGE POSTER DIARY COMIC
SOLOMON J. BRAGER
MISSING
KONY 2012
KIDNAPPED
Entire Israeli Family
Kidnapped from their home by Hamas
Who made this? It's pro-war propaganda.
What a nightmare.
What does the poster want me to do?
This litany of horrors.
Where did these numbers come from?
"Please help bring them home alive"... How?
and then in Park Slope... then around Washington Square Park...
Oh they're everywhere.
This QR code is new.
So the whole thing is the posters.
kidnappedfromisrael.com
DOWNLOAD & PRINT
SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN
change.org
Demand to release now: Babies, children women and elders kidnapped by Hamas!
Started October 11, 2023
83,796 Signatures
150,000 Next Goal
Later, there's a link to a petition aimed at the UN.

Holocaust survivors' vigil at the Museum of Jewish Heritage
KIDNAPPED
On giant milk cartons at Art Basel in Miami
Bring Her Home NOW.
On every mat at a Tel Aviv yoga event
Projected on the side of the New Museum
Over the following weeks, I notice the posters appearing in all these different contexts—
Placed on every seat in a Pratt College screening room
...before an "architecture of apartheid" event
NO CEASEFIRE!
NO CEASEFIRE!
Nov. 14th Stand with Israel rally in D.C.
Around an empty Shabbat table staged in Times Square
Wrapped around the block in Gramercy

The poster designers—Nitzan Mintz, Dede Bandaid, and Tal Huber—call it a grassroots campaign, "one of the most widespread guerilla public artworks in history."

In the streets of New York, a few posters in particular recur: most feature young children, some depict elderly people, almost all of them Israeli citizens. I am later surprised to discover that there are posters available to print for more than 200 of those held as hostages, including a number of the Thai citizens, as well as Tanzanians and Filipinos. The posters featuring foreign nationals, especially those from the global South, appear much less frequently in public.


The most important thing is the word "kidnap", the face, the name, and the age... It's just the simple facts. It's nothing political.
Phone call with Nitzan Mintz November 13th
There's not, on the posters or on the website, a concrete political demand. It says "bring them home" but it doesn't advocate for how that should happen. It doesn't say "prisoner exchange" or anything like that.
NITZAN MINTZ & DEDE BANDAID
We're not from the government, we do not get any information the public doesn't get. So I cannot shout in the streets, "this or that needs to be done to make it happen"...
The American government is the one that can really solve this negotiation. So we do need the support of the American people to do that actually.


How do you feel about different ways that people are using the posters politically?
I've seen them everywhere from ceasefire vigils [in Israel] to pro-war rallies.
What pro-war rallies? Give me an example. Because I didn't see any pro-war...
I mean, there have been a number of, I guess, "pro-Israel" rallies, where people are saying "No ceasefire until Hamas is eradicated."
Yeah. Okay. You mean them? Okay. I'm among them. So 100%. Because this is my personal political idea. It is not being reflected in the campaign at all. . .

You know who suffers? I mean, the people that suffer the most are the ones that lost their families and friends and the people that have their loved ones, like, jailed in Gaza now. But after them, the people who suffer the most from the situation are the half of the population that didn't vote for Bibi and demonstrated for two years straight. We're suffering now, because we are blamed from the entire world. And we are alone. And you know what's going to happen to those people? They will become right wing. Because they don't have any choice now. Basically, the world is pushing us to become the opposite of what we ever wanted.

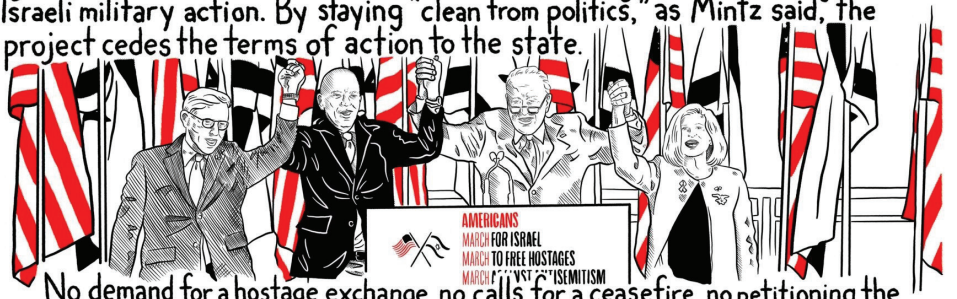
In Israel, the posters are a reminder of the government's failure to protect its citizens and the assertion of a goal—to bring the hostages home alive— that conflicts with the goal of wanton destruction in Gaza.

Some Israelis, among them family members of the hostages who feel they have been abandoned by their government, see the posters as a global appeal.

Bibi, Gantz, and Gallant, you failed! You failed!
We know you can decide tonight [to secure the release of the hostages].
We will burn the state down until they come home—all of them.
November 14th March from Tel Aviv
Shelly Shem Tov, mother of hostage Omer Shem Tov

To hear you speak in such slogans... to erase, to annihilate, to flatten [Gaza]; Who are you flattening? Human beings you've abandoned is who you're flattening.
Knesset hearing November 20th
Hostage family member Gil Dikman

But in the US, connection to Israel/Palestine is mediated by our government's foreign policy. Here, the poster seems designed to galvanize the public in support of the US's unqualified funding for Israeli military action. By staying "clean from politics," as Mintz said, the project cedes the terms of action to the state.



No demand for a hostage exchange, no calls for a ceasefire, no petitioning the government to negotiate. Just a swelling of horror, to be directed toward whatever they decide. This may be a grassroots, guerilla campaign in form, but it seems ultimately to support those in power.

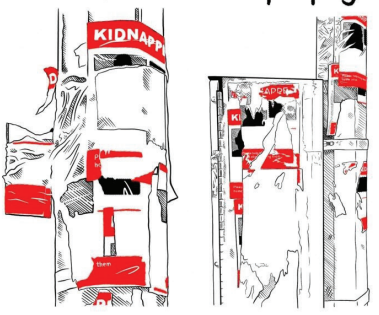
The hostages aren't afforded the grace of being apolitical. They didn't choose this position; they cannot consent to the ways their images and fates are being used.

The posters present them in a formally unified manner— and they're often invoked collectively— but they comprise a diverse group.

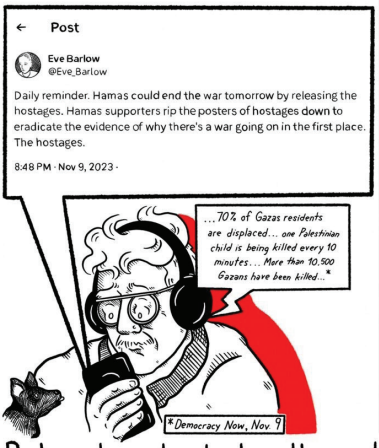
The hostages had starkly unequal access to the resources of Israel's settler society, along lines of citizenship status, class, and ethnicity, even while the security of Israelis is made dependent upon the subjection of Palestinians.

But because of the way the hostages have been leveraged as a reason for Israel's assault on Gaza, to evoke them without attaching specific demands that include the human rights of Palestinians is to use them as war propaganda.

Netanyahu rejected ceasefire-for-hostages deal in Gaza, sources say
Israeli PM said to have turned down proposal in early talks and continues to take tough line
Israel-Hamas war - live updates
Israel-Hamas war: Hostages killed 'by mistake' were waving white flag when IDF shot them
WHAT ABOUT THE HOSTAGES
LIST



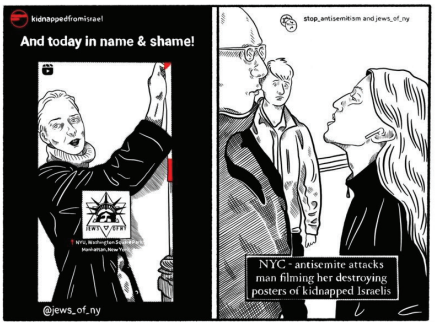
German visual studies scholar Charlotte Klonk writes of images of victims of terrorism: "Rarely is collective grief the sole reason behind their public circulation. Just as powerful is often the desire to keep pain at a distance and to mobilize political opinion... It oftentimes adds fuel to an emotional fire that can easily spin out of control."


Post
Eve Barlow
@Eve_Barlow
Daily reminder. Hamas could end the war tomorrow by releasing the hostages. Hamas supporters rip the posters of hostages down to eradicate the evidence of why there's a war going on in the first place. The hostages.
8:48 PM · Nov 9, 2023 ·
...70% of Gazas residents are displaced... one Palestinian child is being killed every 10 minutes... More than 10,500 Gazans have been killed...*
*Democracy Now, Nov. 9

On November 13th, in *Tablet Magazine*, Emily Benedek writes that the "barbarity" of the Hamas attack was "impossible for those who hate Jews to process, so they didn't. Rather, they attempted to deny the evidence by throwing away photos of the real-life Jewish victims, in a vain attempt to resolve their own logical impasse." On November 20th, Mark Harris in *New York Magazine* calls the putting up and taking down of hostage posters an "angry, silent, futile proxy war being fought by mostly anonymous combatants, lamppost by lamppost."

But most people who tear the posters down seem to be motivated by a sense that the posters are a political campaign in service of state violence, designed to act upon the viewer in particular ways—that inasmuch as the posters feature victims of violence (not all Jewish, not all Israeli), they are geared toward the justification of more violence... At the end of October, reports start to come in of targeted postering, of individuals waiting, cameras out, for the posters to be torn down, of people getting detained by police for removing the posters, of violent assault, of doxxings that spur job losses and death threats.

jewhatedb and antisemitismtoday
Duck Pond Central Park at West 103rd
JEW HATERS SPOTTED IN MANHATTAN
103RD & CENTRAL PARK WEST
JEW HATE DATABASE
DO YOU RECOGNIZE THEM?


kidnappedfromisrael
And today in name & shame!
stop_antisemitism and jews_of_ny
NYC - antisemite attacks man filming her destroying posters of kidnapped Israelis
@jews_of_ny

Along with accounts like @jews_of_ny, the official Instagram account of the poster campaign, @kidnappedfromisrael, is participating in a "name and shame" doxxing campaign. They post videos of people tearing down the posters. Most often, the videos are recorded by a person confronting someone they've spotted removing a poster. In one, the recorder taunts, "no job, no school," evoking the risk of firing and expulsion.

The point increasingly seems to be to target and punish—especially Arab, Muslim, and Palestinian young people who are already subject to American Islamophobic tropes and the carceral surveillance of the ongoing War on Terror.

Statement by public defender and musician Victoria Ruiz:
"...I attended a vigil to mourn the lives of the many thousands of Palestinian civilians that have been killed over this past month. [A group of agitators] began putting up posters around the vigil. I saw that one of the posters contained handwritten statements justifying the bombing of Palestinian civilians...and went over to take that poster down. [Someone from the group] approached me and started recording the video, verbally misrepresenting what I was doing and what I was taking issue with.

Ruiz: Management [at New York County Defender Services, where I worked] did not want to consider context or details . . . [They] spoke to press outlets like the *New York Post* about what was happening to me, without giving me any notice . . . These articles resulted in a huge onslaught of threats to my personal safety that are continuing as I write this letter. (November 12)

The father of Aya and Dana Bakaret, Lebanese American sisters who survived an Israeli bombing in 2006 in Lebanon, makes a statement to the *New York Post*—

Hasan Bakarat: *My daughters are watching pictures of babies dying, buildings collapse on people. It does something.*

Bakarat: *What happened in Manhattan with my daughters. . . The lady provoked them, stole from their hand a picture of [a murdered Palestinian] baby and told [my daughter] "this is going to keep happening to you as long as you support these people."*

Seen Destroying Photos of Jewish Children Kidnapped by Hamas

Phone conversation with Jewish American Art History graduate student Callen Zimmerman: *It's just like this visual noise. . . this very particular idea of Jewish grief. . . I don't believe that there is a neutral grief in this campaign.*

The public sphere is for public discourse. People have the right to put up posters as much as they have the right to take them down.

Phone conversation with Jewish American babysitter and art teacher Laurel Squadron (granddaughter of AJC President Howard Squadron): *I've now deleted all social media, I also changed my phone number—the way that I found out [I was doxxed] was I got random texts that were death threats. . .*

I was also fired from my job—[the principal] told me that she saw the video in an Upper West Side mom's group. . . There's been this other argument, like, you could have put something up yourself. And yes, I didn't do that. I don't think tearing them down was, really, ultimately a great thing to do. But now there's this narrative about me that is like, she is vile, how could anyone who works with kids do this, she's evil and violent. I took down a poster.

Callen: *And I had been tearing them down every time I saw them. Now I'm getting death threats. They've now contacted every school I've ever taught at. The university told me that my class is going to be taken over by the Office for Equity and Inclusion. They're going to teach a workshop about bias and discrimination, and they're going to direct my students on where to report if they think that they have been the victims of bias or discrimination in my class. There's a bunch of cops that they bring to wait outside the classroom. (November 15)*

In an interview with CBS, Mintz said: "They can destroy them... We will put 10,000 more... I'm not serving the army now, I'm not in reserve, but this is my reserve."

The executive director of "watchdog non-profit"/doxxing vanguard Stopantisemitism.org, Liora Rez says on Fox Business, "society needs to be made aware of rabid antisemites that live amongst us... we're exposing them."

Yoav Davis, content creator of the social media site Jews of NY, says on Israeli N12 News, "The reason we want to 'name and shame,'... it's because these people are dangerous. Not a lot of places will hire these people."

I start to hear the echo of a talking point: *you wouldn't tear down a poster of a lost dog but you would tear down a poster of a Jew.*

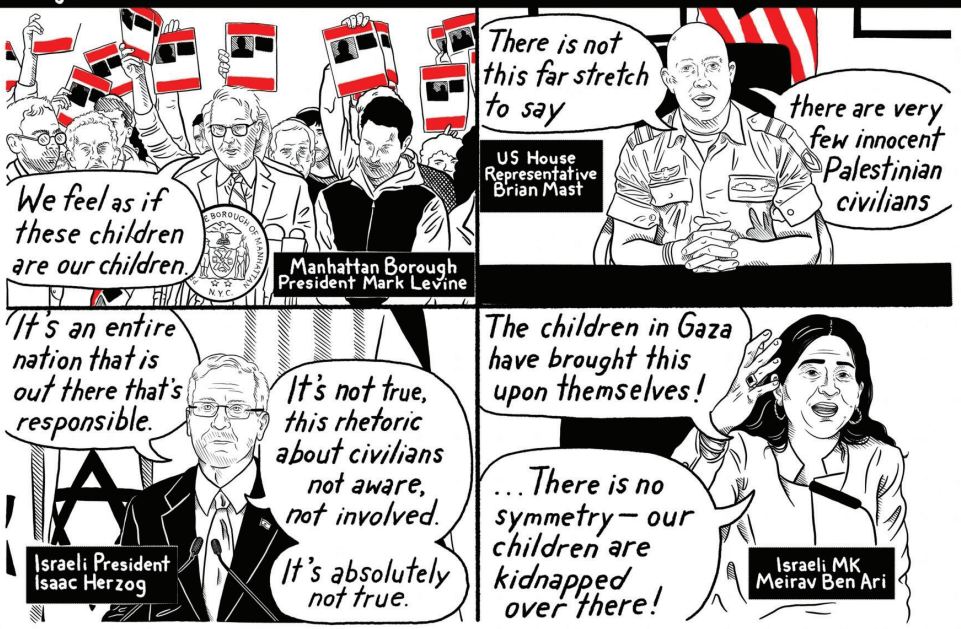
In the US, this is what the obsession with the posters seems to be about: Like the moral panic around reports of campus antisemitism, it provides justification for American Jewish fear. There is an investment in Jewish endangerment, in maintaining a sense of being under threat. President Biden remarks on December 11th, "were there no Israel, there wouldn't be a Jew in the world who was safe."

If this is a proxy war, American Jews have become its proxy victims.

Through circulation of the videos tearing them down, the posters tell American Jews: *We're alone, we're imperiled, we're next.*

I am part of a prime audience for most of the messaging made to measure for white American Jews: only a little religious, soaked in Zionist education, acutely aware of my proximity to the history of the Holocaust. I think about Ronit's hostage poster selfies and the invitation to see myself as a victim. To see myself on the hostage poster, and not in the rubble of Gaza.

Long before October 7th, I got used to seeing the faces of Palestinian children killed by the occupation or being abused by soldiers as I scrolled through my social media feed. I'm familiar with the sense of becoming numb to an ongoing horror that you oppose but are used to. I think about how we expect some people to be subject to early death, and for others to be safe. And further, that in order for Jews to be safe, Palestinians must be subject to death.


We feel as if these children are our children.
Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine
There is not this far stretch to say
US House Representative Brian Mast
there are very few innocent Palestinian civilians
It's an entire nation that is out there that's responsible.
Israeli President Isaac Herzog
It's not true, this rhetoric about civilians not aware, not involved.
It's absolutely not true.
The children in Gaza have brought this upon themselves!
... There is no symmetry — our children are kidnapped over there!
Israeli MK Meirav Ben Ari

"Kidnapped from Israel" intermittently releases new versions of the poster, like after the hostage exchange at the end of November.

(I don't see these versions on the street, only on the website.)

No one can keep up with the casualty lists coming out of Gaza.

I see some posters around New York that visually imitate the kidnapped project, drawing attention to Palestinians killed by Israel.

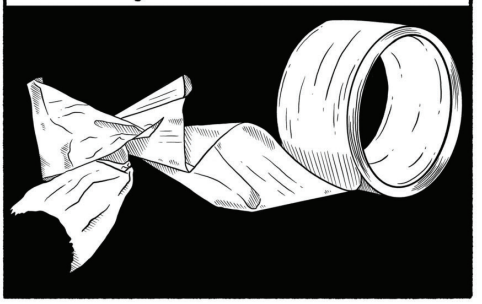
They also get torn down.

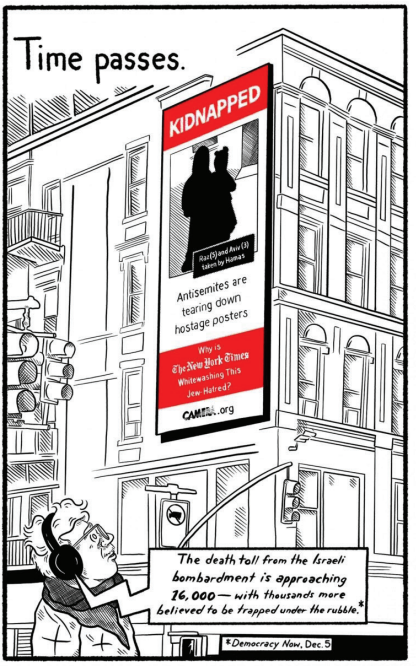
I see some posters amended by a sticker:

CEASEFIRE NOW
EVERYONE FOR EVERYONE
Take a photo of this poster and share it
Please help bring them home alive.
#BringThemHome

A slogan, adopted by many family members of the hostages, that calls for the release of all Palestinian political prisoners in exchange for the hostages.

People start to cover the posters in layers of packing tape. A video goes around recommending covering the tape in Vaseline to further prevent them from being removed.

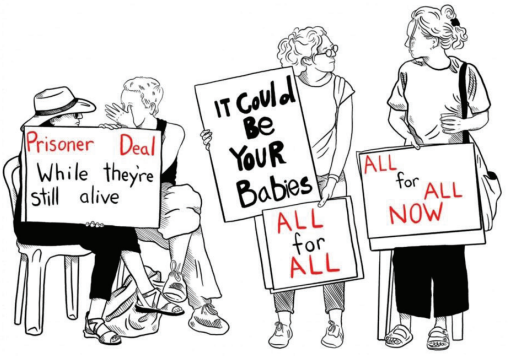



Time passes.
KIDNAPPED
Raul (l) and Avir (3) taken by Hamas
Antisemites are tearing down hostage posters
Why is The New York Times Whitewashing This Jew Hatred?
CAMERA.org
The death toll from the Israeli bombardment is approaching 16,000— with thousands more believed to be trapped under the rubble.*
*Democracy Now, Dec. 5

Dozens of hostages have reportedly died in Israeli airstrikes. The families of hostages keep protesting. There is a growing sense among them that time is running out.

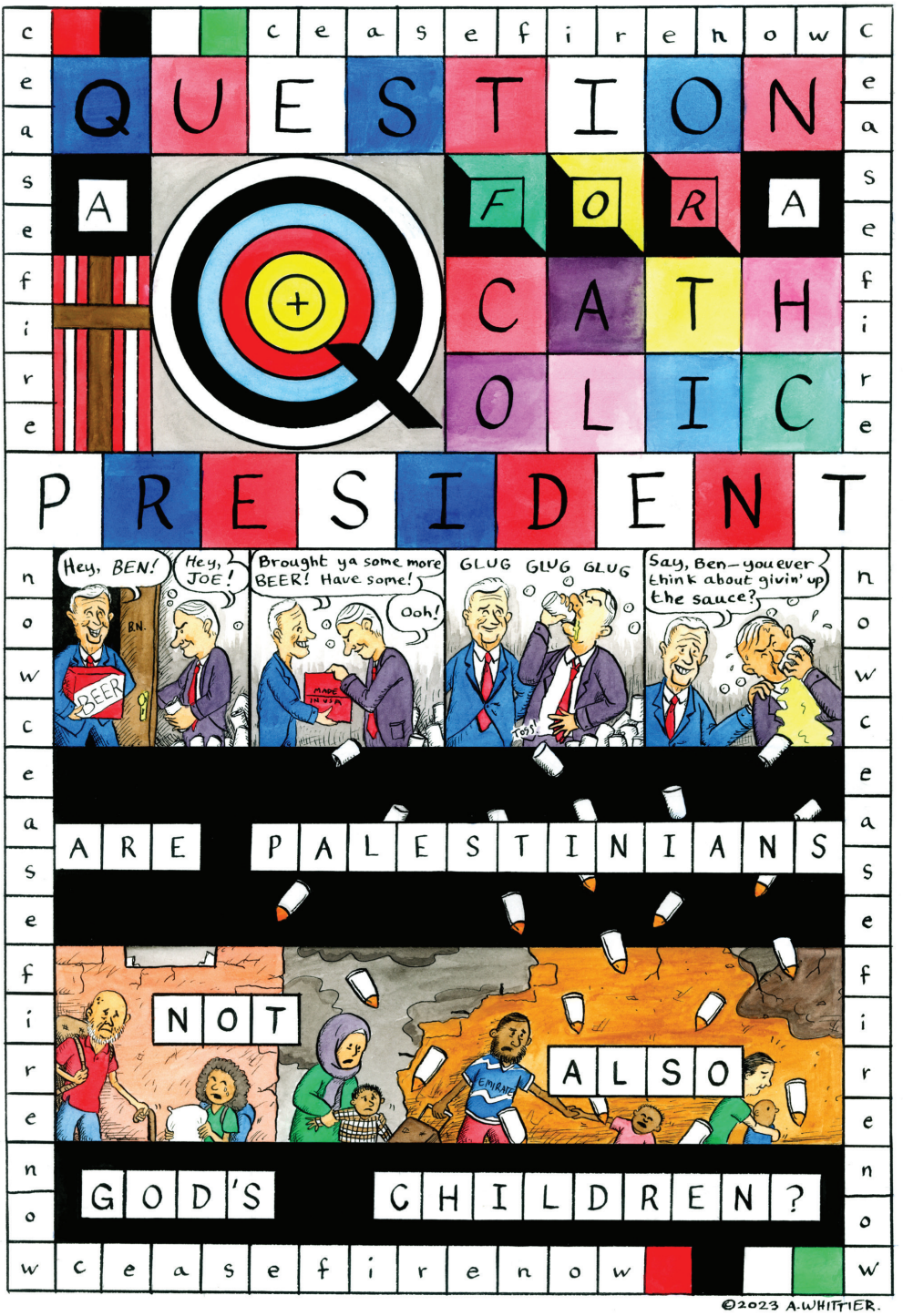
Gazans desperately post evidence of genocide; the world watches it happen.

The posters that stay up fall to entropy.



Conditions in Gaza are described as apocalyptic, everything else seems like a distraction.
...the death toll since October 7th is nearing 30,000, not counting thousands missing, presumed dead...*
*Democracy Now, Feb. 20

Question for a Catholic President by Adam Whittier



"If I Must Die" adapted by Selim elGarhy

IF I MUST DIE
YOU MUST LIVE
TO TELL MY STORY
TO SELL MY THINGS
TO BUY A PIECE OF CLOTH
AND SOME STRINGS
MAKE IT WHITE, WITH A LONG TAIL
SO THAT A CHILD, SOMEWHERE IN GAZA
WHILE LOOKING HEAVEN IN THE EYE
AWAITING HIS DAD WHO LEFT IN A BLAZE—
AND BID NO ONE FAREWELL
NOT EVEN TO HIS FLESH
NOT EVEN TO HIMSELF—
SEES THE KITE MY KITE YOU MADE FLYING UP ABOVE
AND THINKS FOR A MOMENT AN ANGEL IS THERE
BRINGING BACK LOVE
IF I MUST DIE
LET IT BRING HOPE
LET IT BE A TALE
R.I.P REFAAT ELAREER
CEASEFIRE NOW

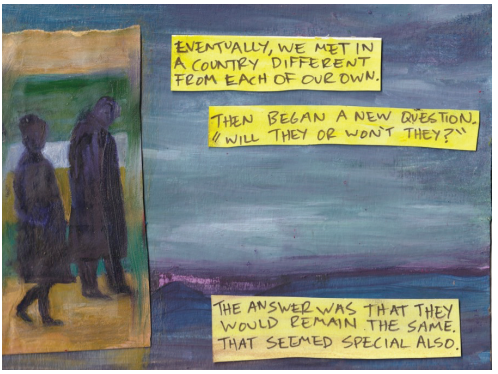
@SELIMELGARHY

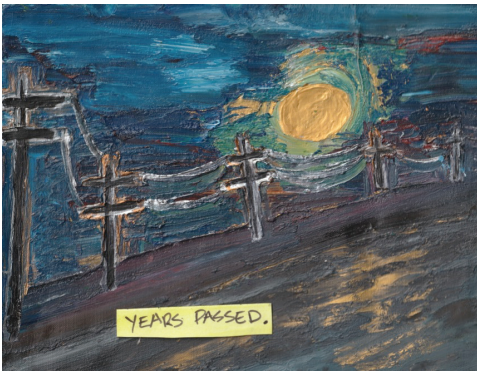
Settler Jacob's Greatest Hits by Deena Mohamed

JACOB PRESENTS
SETTLER COLONIALISM'S GREATEST HITS!
"IF I DON'T STEAL IT, SOMEONE ELSE WILL!"
IT'S IMPORTANT THAT I LIVE HERE, SO THAT THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD IS NOT LOST IN ANY FUTURE PEACE DEAL.
"A NECESSARY EVIL."
SO YOUR POSITION HERE IS A POLITICAL POSITION TO KEEP PALESTINIANS OUT OF IT?
NOT TO KEEP PALESTINIANS OUT OF IT, TO KEEP JEWS IN IT.
AND THEREFORE KEEP PALESTINIANS OUT OF IT.
THAT'S A NECESSARY EVIL.
THIS PART OF THE HOUSE, FOR SURE, IS LOST. THE SECOND PART OF THE HOUSE, UNLESS THERE IS SOME MAJOR MIRACLE, IS GOING TO BE LOST. AND THEY'RE NOT COMING BACK HERE.SO WHETHER I'M HERE, WHETHER I'M NOT HERE, WHETHER IT'S ME, WHETHER IT'S SOMEONE ELSE, WHETHER IT'S A MONKEY, WHETHER IT'S GIRAFFE...
THEY'RE NOT COMING BACK INTO THIS HOUSE EVER.
I UNDERSTAND WHY THEY'RE ANGRY AT ME. I UNDERSTAND WHY THEY DISLIKE ME..
BUT I DID NOT DO THIS TO THEM
AS I SAID, IF I LEAVE I'LL BE REPLACED IMMEDIATELY, AND I VENTURE TO THINK THAT WHOEVER COMES HERE IS NOT GOING TO BE AS...
...AS EASY-GOING AS I AM.
Thanks FOR THE SETTLER COLONIALISM CLARIFICATION ALBUM!
FT. THE VIRAL HIT ON HOME THEFT
THE ETHNIC-CLEANSING PLAN!
THE "WHY U MAD" B-SIDE BALLAD
THE IMPLICIT THREAT OF VIOLENCE!
COLLABS FROM EVERY ISRAELI SETTLER!
COMPLETE LACK OF SELF-AWARENESS!
...& MORE!

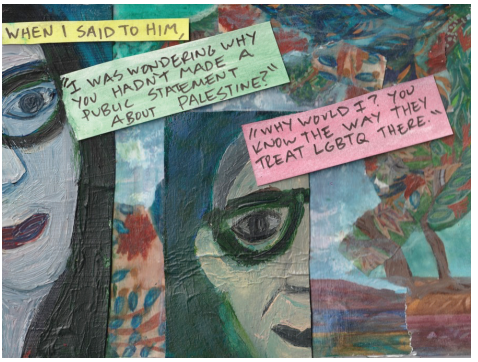
Originally published in 2021

Old Friend by Parisa Karami


EVENTUALLY, WE MET IN A COUNTRY DIFFERENT FROM EACH OF OUR OWN.
THEN BEGAN A NEW QUESTION. "WILL THEY OR WON'T THEY?"
THE ANSWER WAS THAT THEY WOULD REMAIN THE SAME. THAT SEEMED SPECIAL ALSO.



SUDDENLY, IT WAS THE FALL OF 2023.


WHEN I SAID TO HIM,
"I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU HADN'T MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT PALESTINE?"
"WHY WOULD I? YOU KNOW THE WAY THEY TREAT LGBTQ THERE."

"ISRAEL IS COMMITTING GENOCIDE ON ALL OF THE LGBTQ PEOPLE IN GAZA RIGHT NOW. DOES THAT MATTER TO YOU?"
"I WON'T LET YOU BULLY ME! OUR FRIENSHIP IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE!"
"OUR FRIENSHIP IS NOT MORE IMPORTANT THAN A GENOCIDE!"

"HOW CAN YOU SAY THIS STUFF TO ME WHEN YOU KNOW I'M FROM THE MIDDLEEAST? YOU SOUND ISLAMAPHOBIC."
"WELL, YOU KNOW, ISRAEL IS IN THE MIDDLE EAST SO I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHAT THAT HAS TO DO WITH IT."
"I WAS BORN MUSLIM, IS THAT WHAT I SHOULD HAVE SAID?"

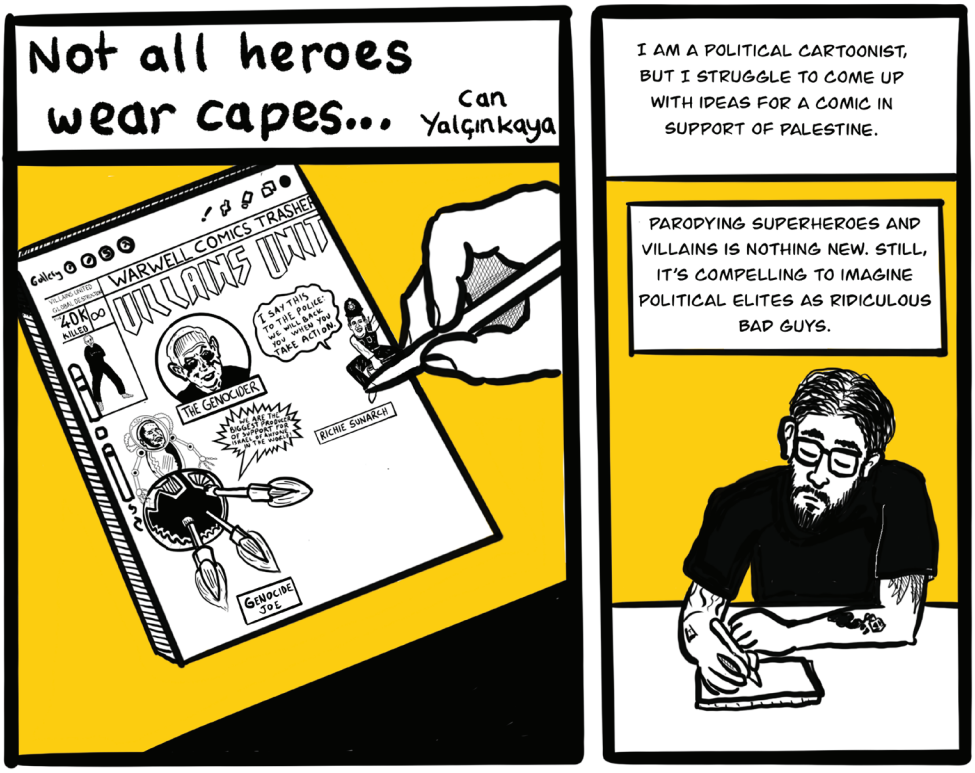
THEN HE SAID,
"PARISA, YOU HAVE LOST YOURSELF TO PALESTINE."

I KNEW HE WAS RIGHT AND THAT I WAS NEVER COMING BACK.

HOW COULD HE WATCH SO MANY JOURNALISTS BE KILLED, NOT SAY ANYTHING, AND STILL CALL HIMSELF A JOURNALIST?
I DON'T MISS HIM.

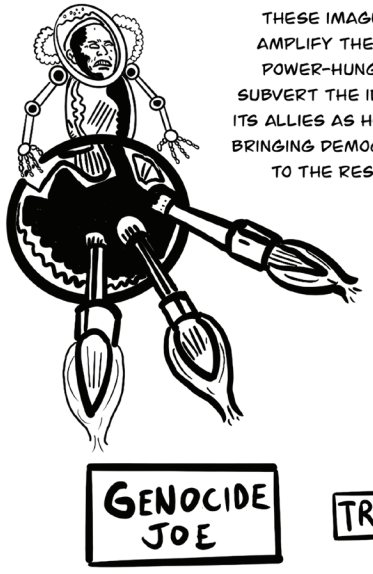
THE LAST WORDS I SAID TO HIM WERE,
"ENTITLED WHITE."

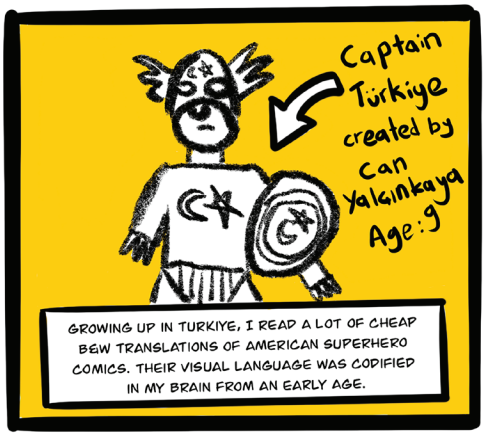
Not All Heroes Wear Capes by Can Yalçınkaya

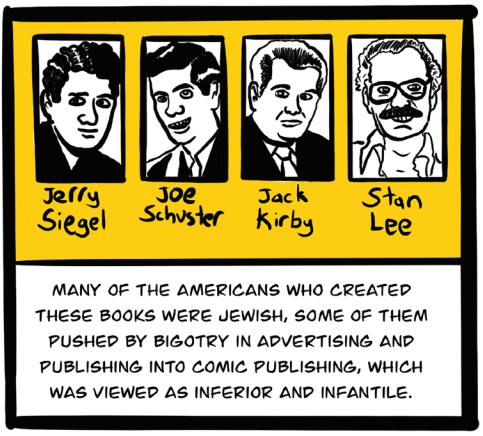

Not all heroes wear capes...
Can Yalçınkaya
WARWELL COMICS TRASHER
VILLAINS UNITED
2.0K
KILLED
THE GENOCIDER
I SAY THIS TO THE POLICE: WE WILL BACK YOU IF YOU TAKE ACTION
RICHIE SUNAK-H
GENOCIDE JOE
I AM A POLITICAL CARTOONIST, BUT I STRUGGLE TO COME UP WITH IDEAS FOR A COMIC IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINE.
PARODYING SUPERHEROES AND VILLAINS IS NOTHING NEW. STILL, IT'S COMPELLING TO IMAGINE POLITICAL ELITES AS RIDICULOUS BAD GUYS.

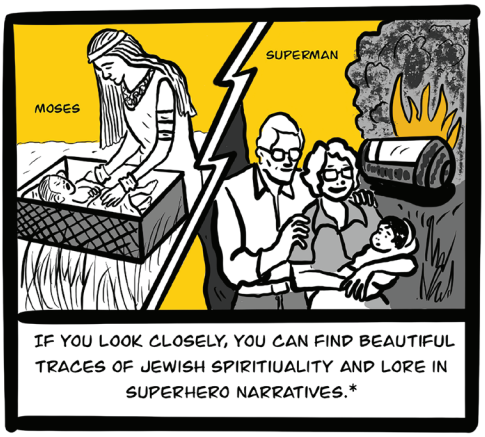
THIS IS NOT TO MAKE LIGHT OF THE REAL HARMS THEY CAUSE IN THE WORLD.

THESE IMAGES ARE MEANT TO AMPLIFY THE GROTESQUERY OF POWER-HUNGRY LEADERS AND SUBVERT THE IDEA OF THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES AS HEROIC SUPERPOWERS BRINGING DEMOCRACY AND STABILITY TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.




Captain Türkiye
created by
Can Yalçınkaya
Age: 9
GROWING UP IN TURKIYE, I READ A LOT OF CHEAP B&W TRANSLATIONS OF AMERICAN SUPERHERO COMICS. THEIR VISUAL LANGUAGE WAS CODIFIED IN MY BRAIN FROM AN EARLY AGE.

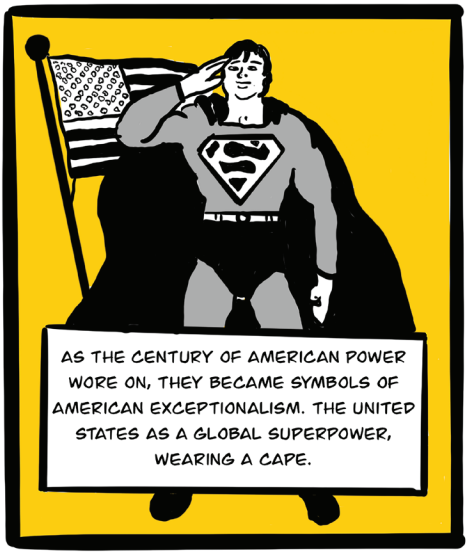

Jerry Siegel
Joe Schuster
Jack Kirby
Stan Lee
MANY OF THE AMERICANS WHO CREATED THESE BOOKS WERE JEWISH, SOME OF THEM PUSHED BY BIGOTRY IN ADVERTISING AND PUBLISHING INTO COMIC PUBLISHING, WHICH WAS VIEWED AS INFERIOR AND INFANTILE.

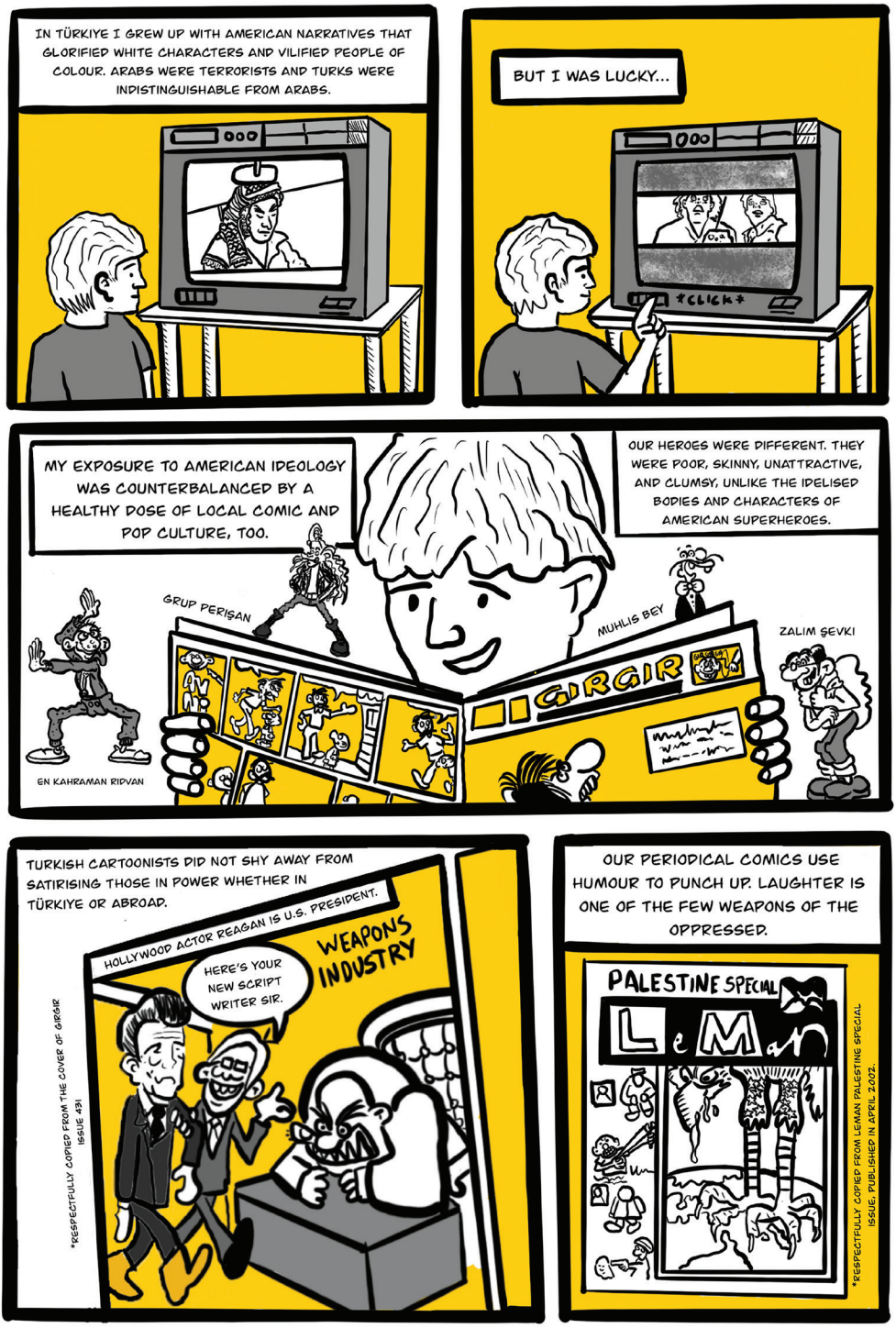

MOSES
SUPERMAN
IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY, YOU CAN FIND BEAUTIFUL TRACES OF JEWISH SPIRITUALITY AND LORE IN SUPERHERO NARRATIVES.*

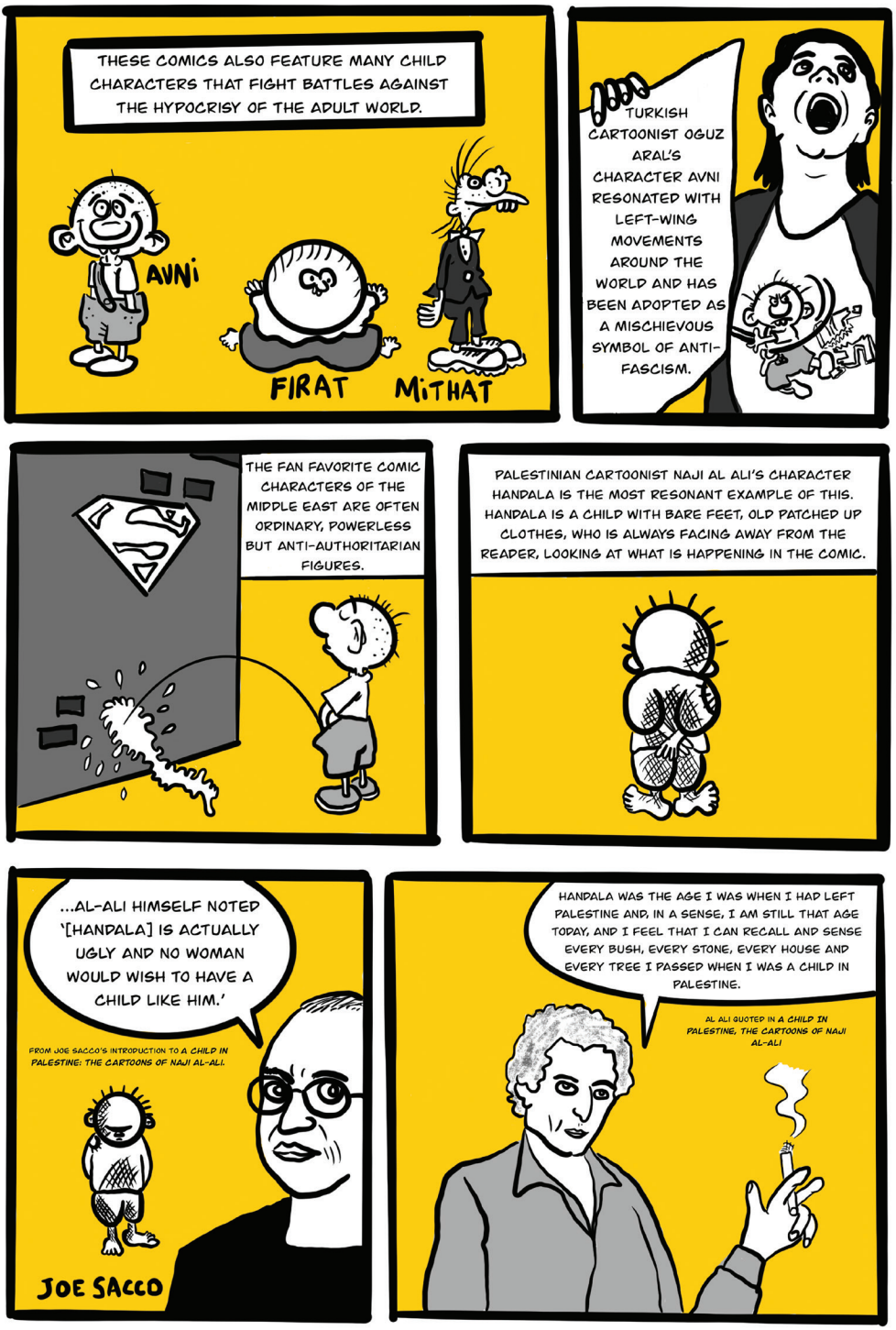
IN THEIR EARLY DAYS, AMERICAN SUPERHERO COMICS WERE STAUNCHLY ANTI-FASCIST. AT TIMES, THEY WERE EVEN ANTI-CAPITALIST AND ANTI-MILITARIST.

* SEE JOHNNY E MILES (2018), SUPERHEROES AND THEIR ANCIENT JEWISH PARALLELS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

THESE POWER FANTASIES WERE A CREATIVE RESPONSE TO THE TRAUMA OF VIOLENT ANTISEMITISM AND THE HOLOCAUST IN EUROPE. A WAY OF DEALING WITH HELPLESSNESS AGAINST ONGOING GENOCIDE...


AS THE CENTURY OF AMERICAN POWER WORE ON, THEY BECAME SYMBOLS OF AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM. THE UNITED STATES AS A GLOBAL SUPERPOWER, WEARING A CAPE.


IN TÜRKIYE I GREW UP WITH AMERICAN NARRATIVES THAT GLORIFIED WHITE CHARACTERS AND VILIFIED PEOPLE OF COLOUR. ARABS WERE TERRORISTS AND TURKS WERE INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM ARABS.
BUT I WAS LUCKY...
CLICK
MY EXPOSURE TO AMERICAN IDEOLOGY WAS COUNTERBALANCED BY A HEALTHY DOSE OF LOCAL COMIC AND POP CULTURE, TOO.
OUR HEROES WERE DIFFERENT. THEY WERE POOR, SKINNY, UNATTRACTIVE, AND CLUMSY, UNLIKE THE IDELISED BODIES AND CHARACTERS OF AMERICAN SUPERHEROES.
GRUP PERIŞAN
MUHLIS BEY
ZALIM ŞEVKI
EN KAHRAMAN RIDVAN
GIRGIR
TURKISH CARTOONISTS DID NOT SHY AWAY FROM SATIRISING THOSE IN POWER WHETHER IN TÜRKIYE OR ABROAD.
HOLLYWOOD ACTOR REAGAN IS U.S. PRESIDENT.
HERE'S YOUR NEW SCRIPT WRITER SIR.
WEAPONS INDUSTRY
*RESPECTFULLY COPIED FROM THE COVER OF GIRGIR ISSUE #31
OUR PERIODICAL COMICS USE HUMOUR TO PUNCH UP. LAUGHTER IS ONE OF THE FEW WEAPONS OF THE OPPRESSED.
PALESTINE SPECIAL
LeMan
*RESPECTFULLY COPIED FROM LEMAN PALESTINE SPECIAL ISSUE, PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2002.

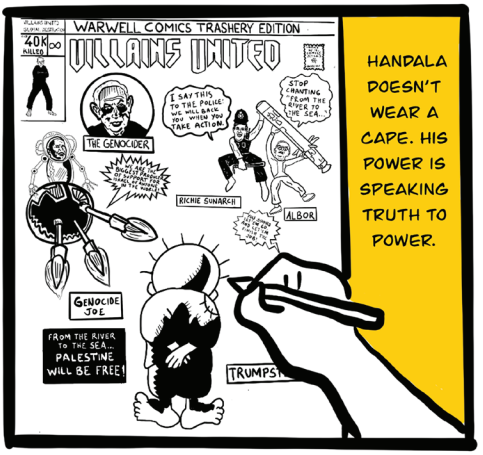

THESE COMICS ALSO FEATURE MANY CHILD CHARACTERS THAT FIGHT BATTLES AGAINST THE HYPOCRISY OF THE ADULT WORLD.
AVNI
FIRAT
MITHAT
TURKISH CARTOONIST OGUZ ARAL'S CHARACTER AVNI RESONATED WITH LEFT-WING MOVEMENTS AROUND THE WORLD AND HAS BEEN ADOPTED AS A MISCHIEVOUS SYMBOL OF ANTI-FASCISM.
THE FAN FAVORITE COMIC CHARACTERS OF THE MIDDLE EAST ARE OFTEN ORDINARY, POWERLESS BUT ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN FIGURES.
PALESTINIAN CARTOONIST NAJI AL ALI'S CHARACTER HANDALA IS THE MOST RESONANT EXAMPLE OF THIS. HANDALA IS A CHILD WITH BARE FEET, OLD PATCHED UP CLOTHES, WHO IS ALWAYS FACING AWAY FROM THE READER, LOOKING AT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE COMIC.
...AL-ALI HIMSELF NOTED '[HANDALA] IS ACTUALLY UGLY AND NO WOMAN WOULD WISH TO HAVE A CHILD LIKE HIM.'
FROM JOE SACCO'S INTRODUCTION TO A CHILD IN PALESTINE: THE CARTOONS OF NAJI AL-ALI.
JOE SACCO
HANDALA WAS THE AGE I WAS WHEN I HAD LEFT PALESTINE AND, IN A SENSE, I AM STILL THAT AGE TODAY, AND I FEEL THAT I CAN RECALL AND SENSE EVERY BUSH, EVERY STONE, EVERY HOUSE AND EVERY TREE I PASSED WHEN I WAS A CHILD IN PALESTINE.
AL ALI QUOTED IN A CHILD IN PALESTINE, THE CARTOONS OF NAJI AL-ALI

WHY DIDN'T AL-ALI CREATE AN IDEALISED, ALL-POWERFUL HERO TO BRING CATHARTIC JUSTICE FOR PALESTINIANS ON THE FUNNY PAGES LIKE HIS FELLOW CARTOONISTS DID IN THE UNITED STATES? INSTEAD HE CHOSE TO DEPICT A HELPLESS CHILD BASED ON HIS OWN EXPERIENCES AS A REFUGEE IN LEBANON AFTER THE NAKBA.

THE DEVASTATING MILITARY POWER WITH WHICH ISRAEL, AIDED BY THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN ALLIES, ATTACK PALESTINE IS A REAL-WORLD MANIFESTATION OF THE VILLAINOUS END OF WORLD SCENARIOS IMAGINED IN SUPERHERO COMICS.

NAJI AL-ALI'S HERO IS POWERLESS TO STOP THE ATTACKS, THE INVASIONS AND THE INJUSTICE...
HE BEARS WITNESS AND RESISTS BY SURVIVING.

NAJI AL-ALI WAS ASSASSINATED IN LONDON IN 1987, BUT HANDALA LIVES EVERYWHERE PEOPLE RESIST AND STAND UP FOR PALESTINE.


WARWELL COMICS TRASHERY EDITION
40K KILLED
VILLAINS UNITED
THE GENOCIDER
I SAY THIS TO THE POLICE: WE WILL RAGE. YOU WISH YOU TAKE ACTION
STOP CHANTING "FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA."
RICHIE SUNAKH
ALBOR
GENOCIDE JOE
FROM THE RIVER, TO THE SEA... PALESTINE WILL BE FREE!
TRUMPS

HANDALA DOESN'T WEAR A CAPE. HIS POWER IS SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER.

THAT IS WHY THE IMAGE OF THE DISPOSSESSED BUT DEFIANT CHILD RESONATES WITH PALESTINIANS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS AROUND THE WORLD.

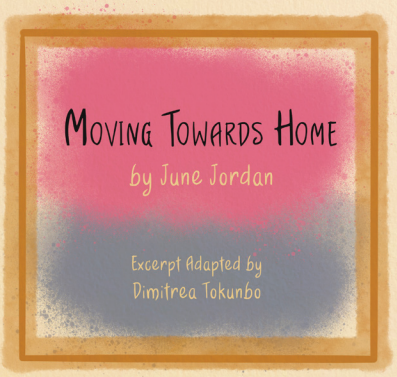
What We Do by Madeline Berger

A FREE PALESTINE IN OUR LIFE TIME
BOIL A BIG POT OF RASCAL GOO
CEASE FIRE NOW
REPLACE PREVIOUSLY DEFACED POSTERS IN YOUR NEIGHBOUR-HOOD
PALESTINE WILL BE FREE
NO JUSTICE NO PEACE
WALK HOME COVERED IN GOO
FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA PALESTINE WILL BE FREE
no peace on stolen land
FREE GAZA
END THE OC
MAKE MORE POSTERS
LAND BACK

Post-Apocalyptic Media by Al Benbow

I CONSUME A LOT OF POST-APOCALYPTIC MEDIA.
GUHHH...
HELP!?
LATELY I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THAT THE VERY ASPECTS OF THE GENRE THAT MOST CAPTIVATE AUDIENCES...
HE'S BEEN BIT, WE HAVE TO AMPUTATE NOW!!!
BUT ALL WE HAVE IS THIS DIRTY HATCHET!
...ARE EXACTLY WHAT'S HAPPENING TO PEOPLE IN GAZA RIGHT NOW.
AMPUTATIONS PERFORMED WITHOUT ANESTHESIA OR MEDICAL SUPPLIES
I WONDER WHY SO MANY PEOPLE CARE ABOUT TV CHARACTERS, BUT NOT REAL LIVING PEOPLE.
I LOVE MY WHITE ALL-AMERICAN FAMILY
(I KNOW WHY)

Moving Towards Home adapted by Dimitrea Tokunbo



I WAS BORN A BLACK WOMAN

AND NOW

I AM BECOME A PALESTINIAN

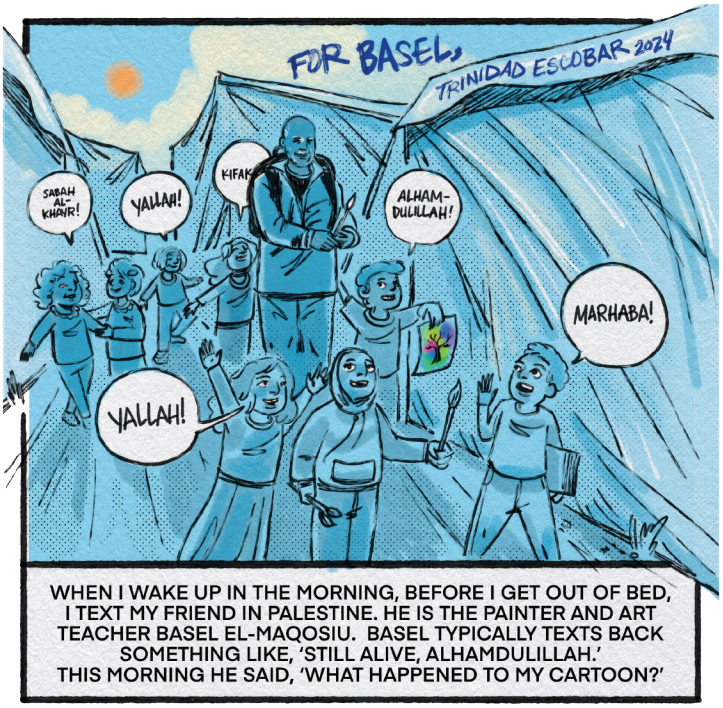
AGAINST THE RELENTLESS LAUGHTER OF EVIL

THERE IS LESS AND LESS LIVING ROOM

AND WHERE ARE MY LOVED ONES?

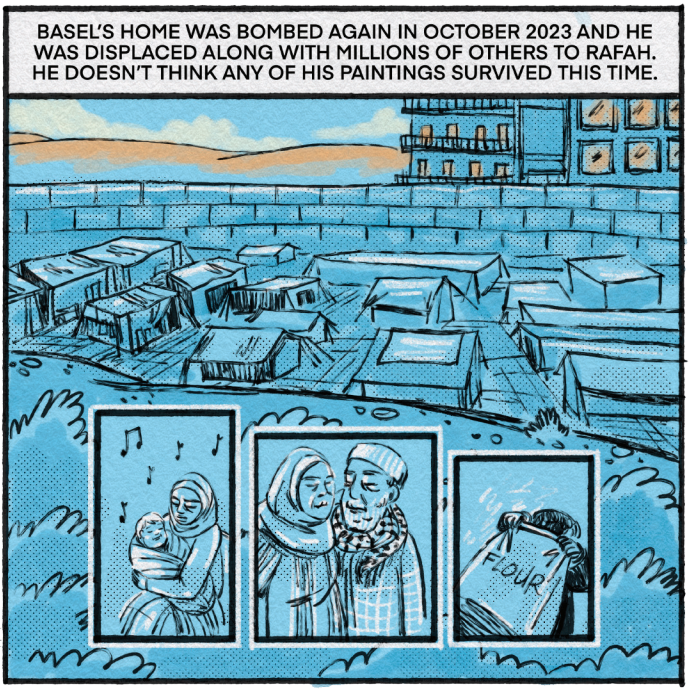
IT IS TIME TO MAKE OUR WAY HOME

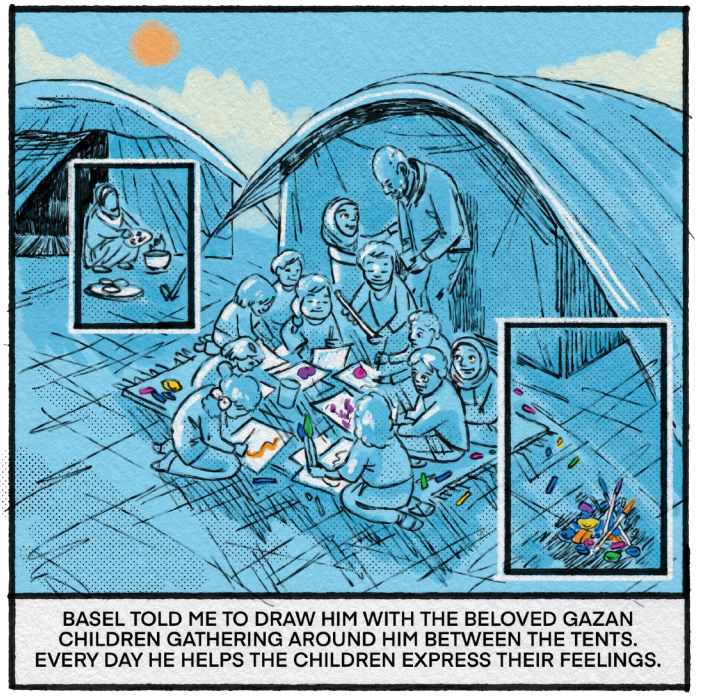
For Basel by Trinidad Escobar


FOR BASEL,
TRINIDAD ESCOBAR 2024
SABAH AL-KHAYR!
YALLAH!
KIFAK
ALHAM-DULILLAH!
MARHABA!
YALLAH!
WHEN I WAKE UP IN THE MORNING, BEFORE I GET OUT OF BED, I TEXT MY FRIEND IN PALESTINE. HE IS THE PAINTER AND ART TEACHER BASEL EL-MAQOSIU. BASEL TYPICALLY TEXTS BACK SOMETHING LIKE, 'STILL ALIVE, ALHAMDULILLAH.' THIS MORNING HE SAID, 'WHAT HAPPENED TO MY CARTOON?'

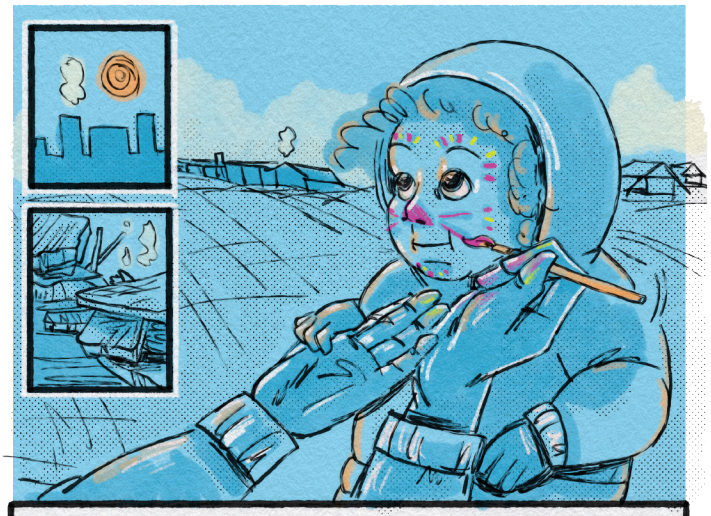
WEEKS AGO, I TOLD BASEL THAT I WAS GOING TO DRAW A COMIC OF HIM BECAUSE I LOOKED UP TO HIM AND OTHER PALESTINIAN ARTISTS, LIKE REFAAT ALAREER AND NAJI AL-ALI.

HE TOLD ME ABOUT HOW HE REPAIRED HIS PAINTINGS AFTER A PREVIOUS BOMBING IN 2008, THAT HE TREATED HIS PAINTINGS LIKE WOUNDED FAMILY MEMBERS, DRESSING THEM WITH GAUZE.

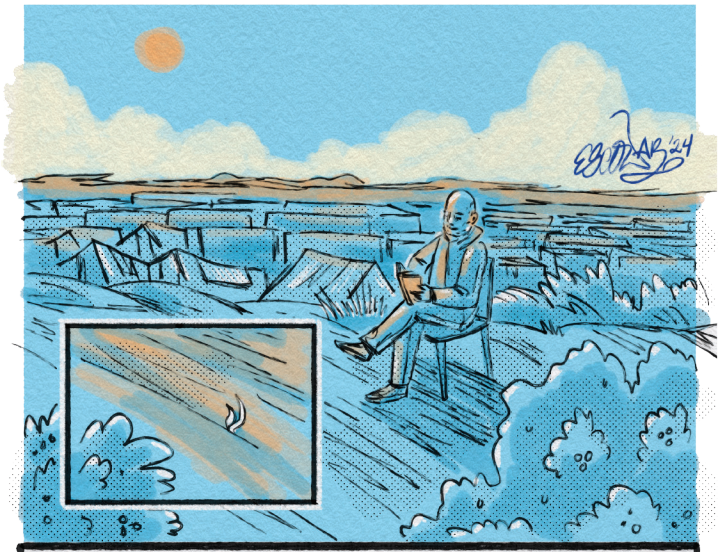

BASEL'S HOME WAS BOMBED AGAIN IN OCTOBER 2023 AND HE WAS DISPLACED ALONG WITH MILLIONS OF OTHERS TO RAFAH. HE DOESN'T THINK ANY OF HIS PAINTINGS SURVIVED THIS TIME.
FLOUR


BASEL TOLD ME TO DRAW HIM WITH THE BELOVED GAZAN CHILDREN GATHERING AROUND HIM BETWEEN THE TENTS. EVERY DAY HE HELPS THE CHILDREN EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS.

SHK
SHK
SHK
SHHK
SHHK

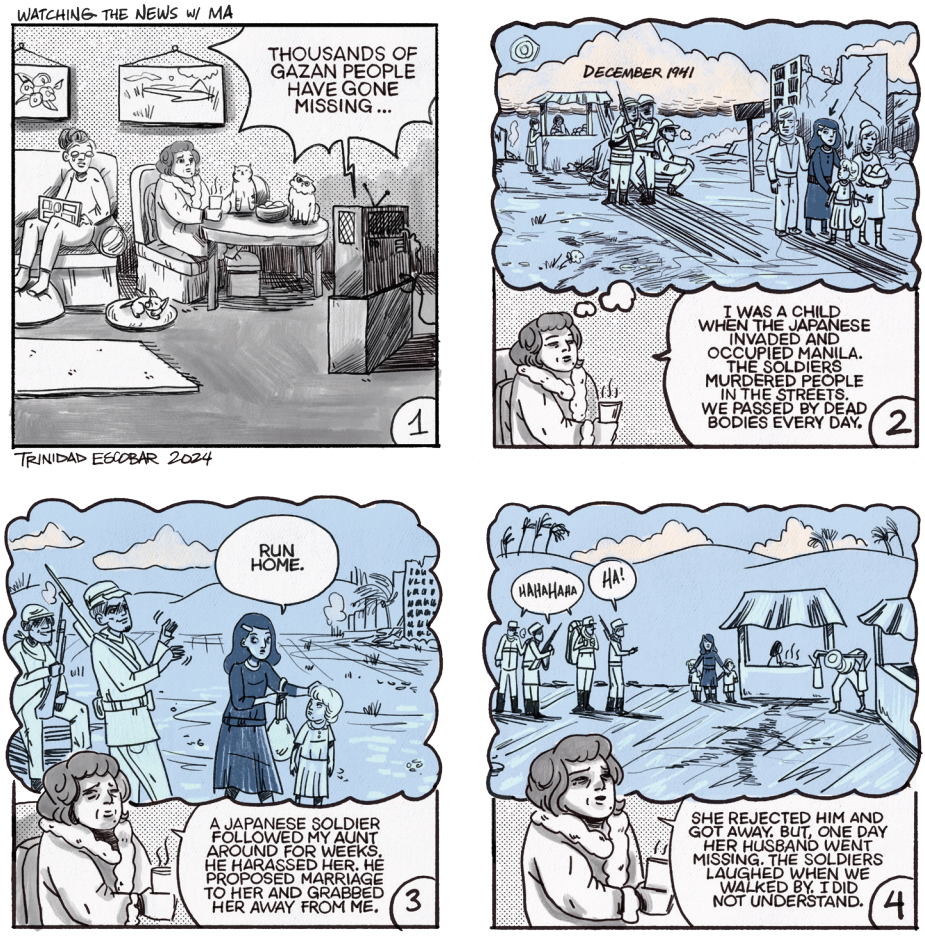


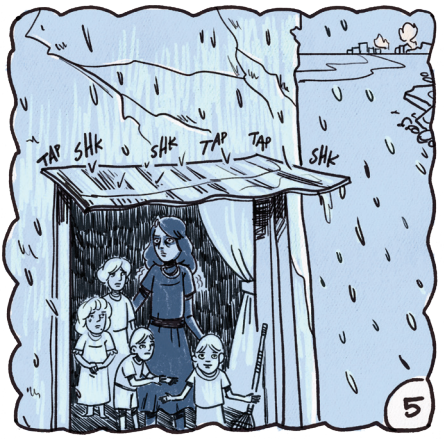
HE HOPES THAT THE BRIGHT COLORS WILL REMAIN IN THE CHILDREN'S MINDS UNTIL THEY CAN FALL ASLEEP AT NIGHT. HE IMAGINES THAT THEY SLEEP WITH THE COLORS COMFORTING THEM BEHIND THEIR CLOSED EYES.

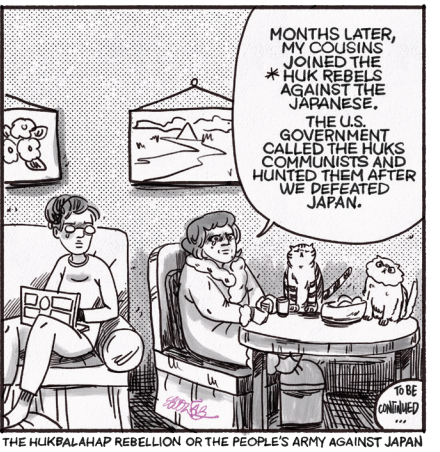


BUT, THE BOMBS STRIKE NONSTOP, THE CHILDREN BRACE THEMSELVES UNTIL THE NIGHT PASSES. THE NEXT MORNING, LIKE CLOCKWORK, BASEL PAINTS AGAIN WITH THE CHILDREN. "I DRAW AND PAINT TO REMAIN SENSITIVE. I WON'T ALLOW THIS WAR TO TAKE AWAY MY SENSITIVITY."

Watching the News With Ma by Trinidad Escobar


WATCHING THE NEWS W/ MA
THOUSANDS OF GAZAN PEOPLE HAVE GONE MISSING...
1
TRINIDAD ESCOBAR 2024
DECEMBER 1941
I WAS A CHILD WHEN THE JAPANESE INVADED AND OCCUPIED MANILA. THE SOLDIERS MURDERED PEOPLE IN THE STREETS. WE PASSED BY DEAD BODIES EVERY DAY.
2
RUN HOME.
A JAPANESE SOLDIER FOLLOWED MY AUNT AROUND FOR WEEKS. HE HARASSED HER. HE PROPOSED MARRIAGE TO HER AND GRABBED HER AWAY FROM ME.
3
HAHAHAHA
HA!
SHE REJECTED HIM AND GOT AWAY. BUT, ONE DAY HER HUSBAND WENT MISSING. THE SOLDIERS LAUGHED WHEN WE WALKED BY. I DID NOT UNDERSTAND.
4



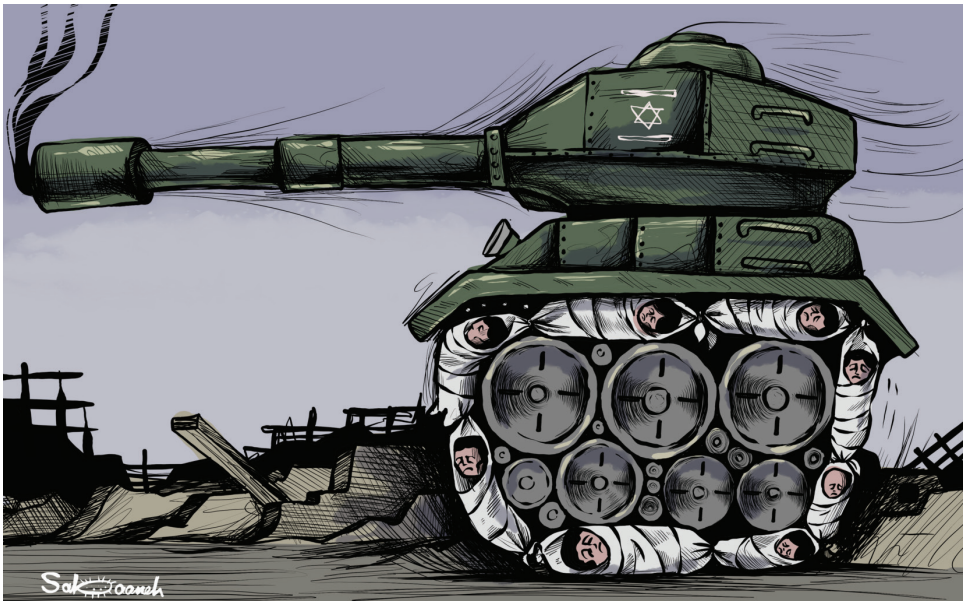

MONTHS LATER, MY COUSINS JOINED THE *HUK REBELS AGAINST THE JAPANESE.
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CALLED THE HUKS COMMUNISTS AND HUNTED THEM AFTER WE DEFEATED JAPAN.
TO BE CONTINUED ...

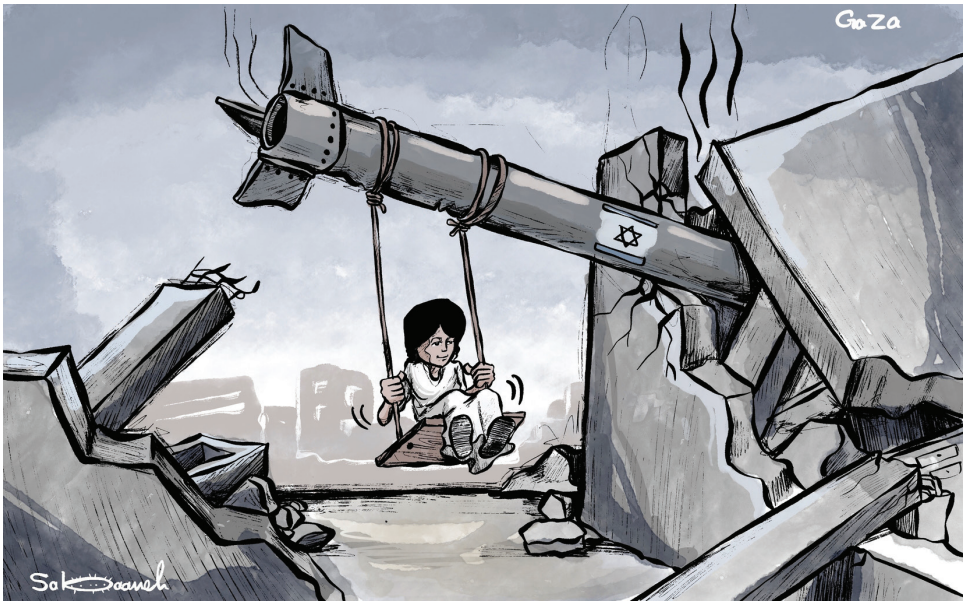
TRINIDADPESCOBAR.COM

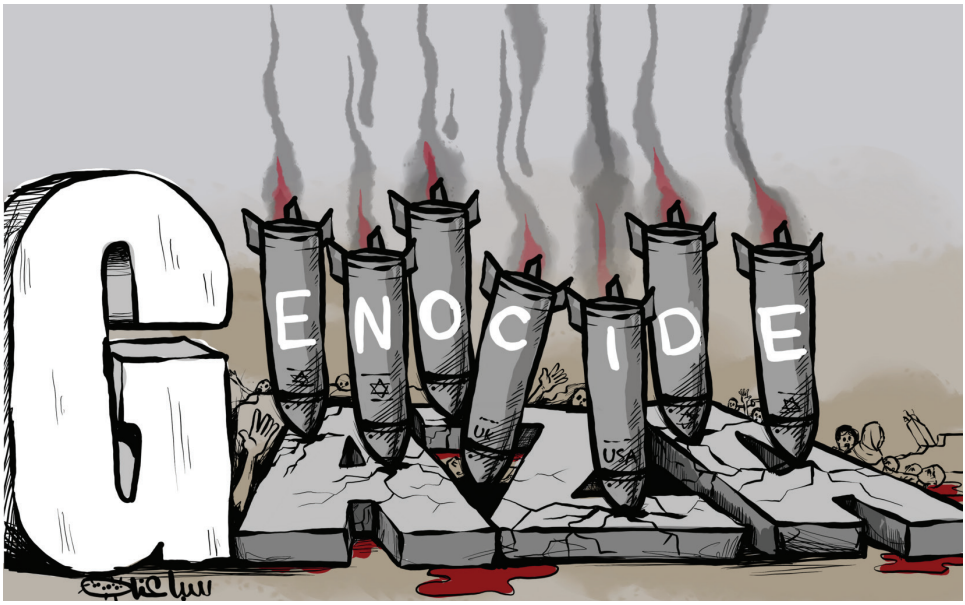
*THE HUKBALAHAP REBELLION OR THE PEOPLE'S ARMY AGAINST JAPAN

Political Cartoons From Palestine by Mohammad Sabaaneh

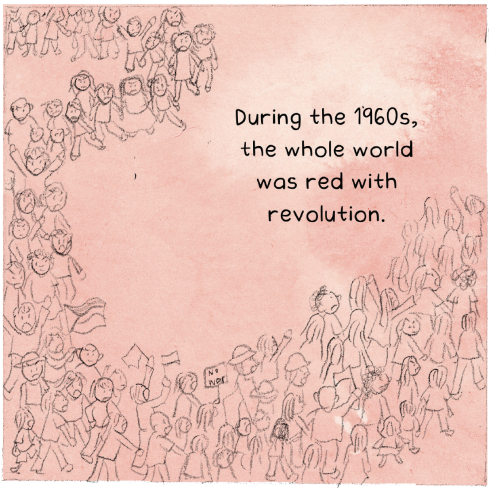
A selection of political cartoons from *Al-Hayat al-Jadida*, the Palestinian Authority's daily newspaper.

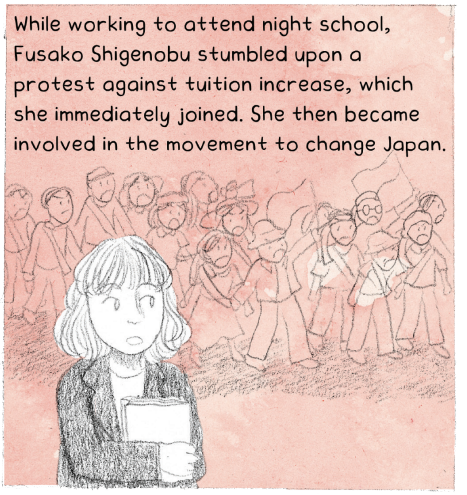



Gaza


GENOCIDE
USA

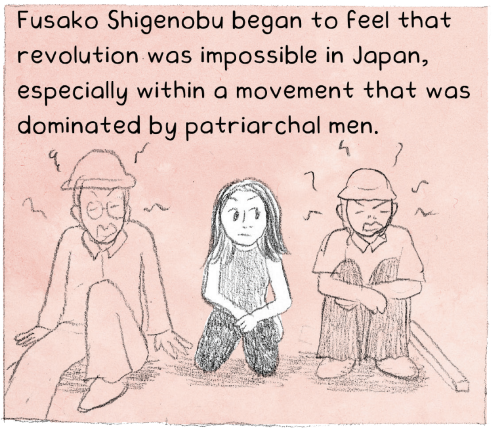
Red with Revolution: The JRA and PFLP by Sam Nakahira

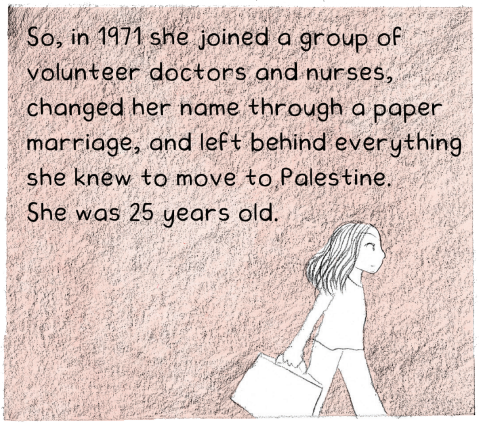



While working to attend night school, Fusako Shigenobu stumbled upon a protest against tuition increase, which she immediately joined. She then became involved in the movement to change Japan.

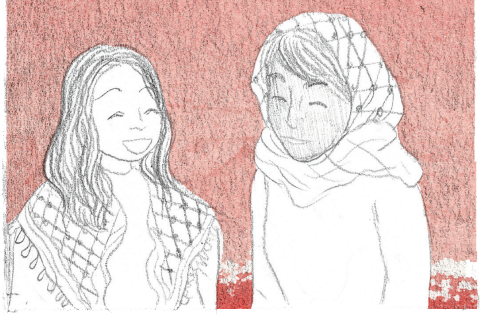
Anti-war, anti-poverty, and anti-racism, Japanese leftists called for an end to the Vietnam War and the US-Japan Security Treaty.
MARINES

However, the Japanese New Left became consumed with in-fighting, further aggravated by the intense environment of police surveillance.

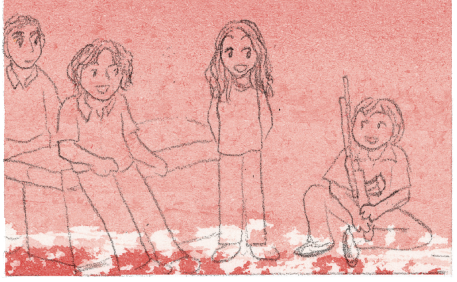

Fusako Shigenobu began to feel that revolution was impossible in Japan, especially within a movement that was dominated by patriarchal men.


So, in 1971 she joined a group of volunteer doctors and nurses, changed her name through a paper marriage, and left behind everything she knew to move to Palestine. She was 25 years old.

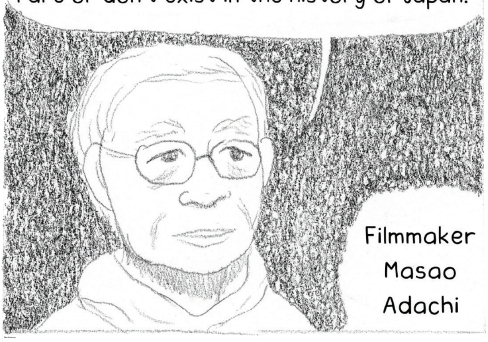
Shigenobu wanted to fight for a linked global revolution, or kokusai konkyochiron, the "international base theory."



A number of Japanese leftists joined Shigenobu in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).



"They committed their lives, burning their bridges behind them. They fought for internationalism. People like that are very rare or don't exist in the history of Japan."



Filmmaker Masao Adachi

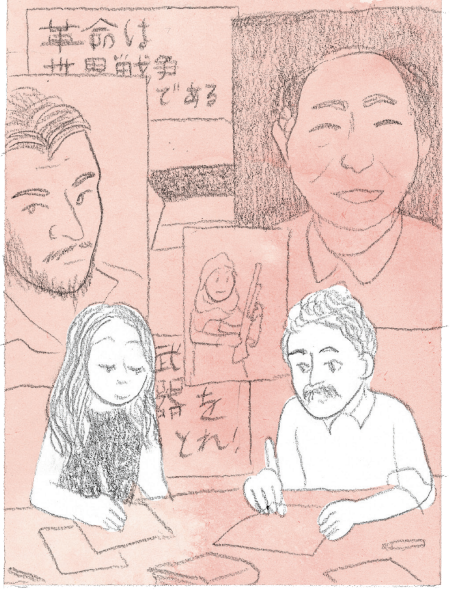
They eventually established the Japanese Red Army (JRA), one of Japan's most infamous "terrorist" groups (to use police state rhetoric). Willing to give their lives in solidarity with the Palestinian people, they became involved in hijackings, hostage taking, and bombings.

These hijackings and violent crusades drew international anger, but they also helped introduce people to the Palestinian struggle.

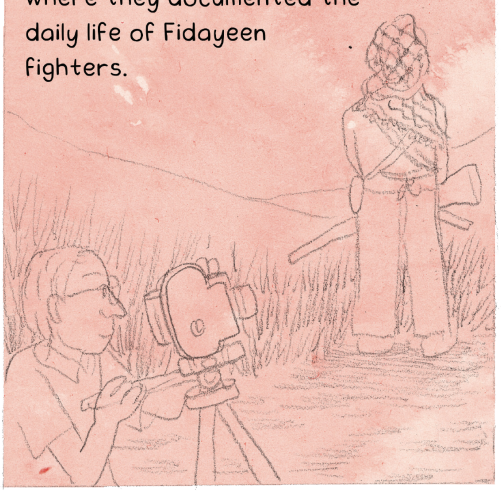
During the 1970s, many people empathized with the Palestinian struggle against colonization and from all over the world, they came to join the PFLP.

"Beyond blood relations, family is born from mutual support and understanding from those with shared experiences and time devoted to giving one's life to protect each other."

Working for Ghassan Kanafani's magazine, Shigenobu wrote letters, books, articles, and facilitated documentaries to garner support for Palestine.



Shigenobu accompanied and introduced filmmakers Masao Adachi and Koji Wakamatsu to Jordan's Jarash mountain Palestinian camp, where they documented the daily life of Fidayeen fighters.



Two days after the filming, Adachi and Wakamatsu returned to Beirut, and the Israeli military destroyed the camps and massacred every Palestinian there.

Algerian liberation fighter Frantz Fanon wrote that the violence inflicted on the colonized will always return in full force to their oppressors.

In May 1972, three members of the JRA attacked Tel Aviv's Lod Airport with hand grenades and light machine guns, killing 26 people and wounding 80 others.

In 2022, Shigenobu reflected on the JRA:

"I have hurt innocent people I did not know by putting our struggles first. Although those were different times, I would like to take this opportunity to apologize deeply."

However, she has never apologized for joining the PFLP.

"I have never considered myself a terrorist."

"The term 'terrorist' was a product of the Reagan administration and Israeli government efforts to conceal dissident political intentions and backgrounds and criminalize them."

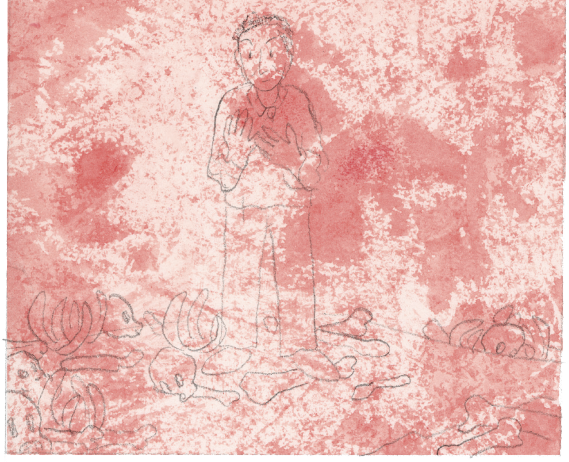
With their attack on Lod Airport, the JRA was targeting Aharon Katzir.

Katzir was the head of Israel's biological weapons development, creating weapons of mass murder.

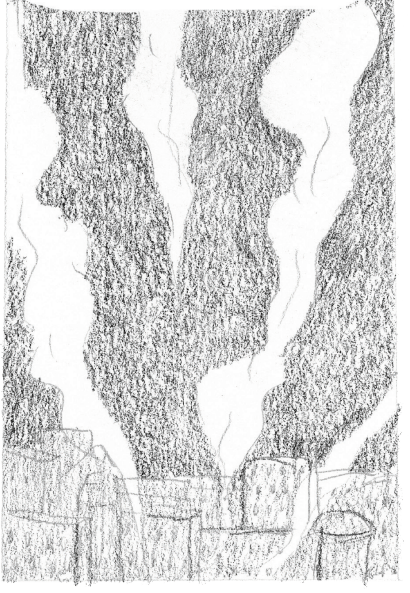
After WWI, the international community banned the use of biological and chemical weapons in warfare, but Israel has continued to develop them.

People can argue for days over the means and the ends . . .

but Katzir was not an innocent civilian.



In 2023, Israel has dropped white phosphorus bombs on Gaza and Lebanon.



White phosphorus does
not stop burning.

It strikes through bone.

People are unable to breathe.

It is as if Israel is trying
to gas the whole region.

Medical workers are reporting
that they are unable to comprehend
injuries of this level and extent.

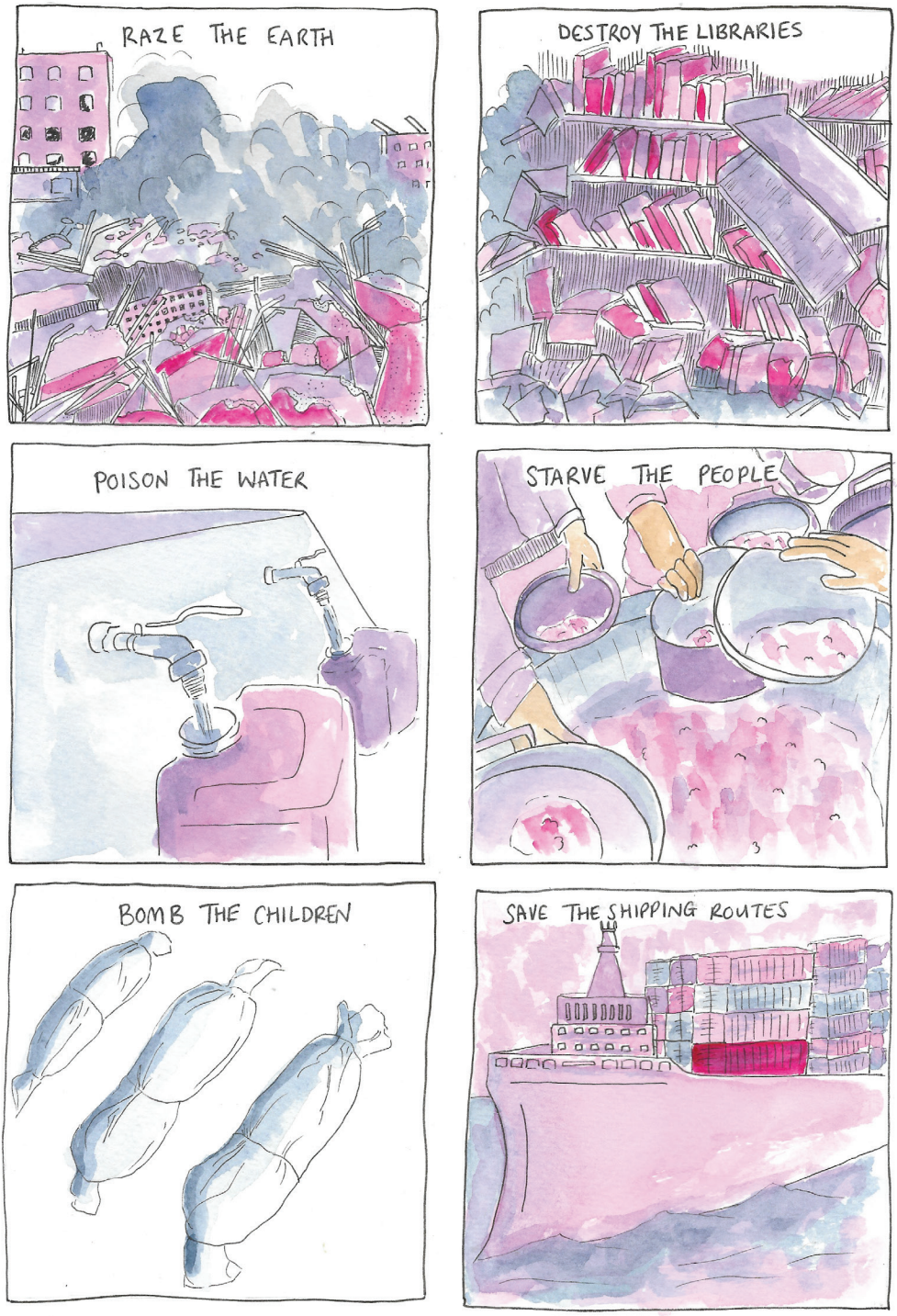
"If I Must Die" adapted by Douglas Lambert

BASED ON A POEM BY REFAAT ALAREER AND ON IMAGES FROM PALESTINEREMEMBERED.COM
ART BY DOUGLAS LAMBERT
IF I MUST DIE, YOU MUST LIVE
TO TELL MY STORY
TO SELL MY THINGS
TO BUY A PIECE OF CLOTH AND SOME STRINGS,
(MAKE IT WHITE WITH A LONG TAIL)
SO THAT A CHILD, SOMEWHERE IN GAZA WHILE LOOKING HEAVEN IN THE EYE
AWAITING HIS DAD WHO LEFT IN A BLAZE – AND BID NO ONE FAREWELL NOT EVEN TO HIS FLESH NOT EVEN TO HIMSELF–
SEES THE KITE, MY KITE YOU MADE FLYING UP ABOVE AND THINKS FOR A MOMENT AN ANGEL IS THERE BRINGING BACK LOVE
IF I MUST DIE
LET IT BRING HOPE
LET IT BE A TALE

¡Viva Palestina! by Julia Mata

I'M GOING TO BE HONEST WITH YOU—
SOME OF YALL MAKE ME ASHAMED TO BE JEWISH
AND BY "YOU", I MEAN ZIONISTS
AND DON'T COME FOR ME, I KNOW MY HISTORY, THAT'S WHAT'S CONFUSING—
HOW ARE PEOPLE USING THE HOLOCAUST TO COMMIT ANOTHER HOLOCAUST?
ACTUALLY, I THINK OUR HISTORY OF RESISTING GOVERNMENT OPPRESSION IS REALLY INSPIRING
MY HEART BREAKS EVERY DAY FOR PALESTINE
I DO WHAT I CAN, AND HOPE IT AMOUNTS TO SOMETHING
VIVA VIVA PALESTINA
CEASEFIRE NOW!

Raze The Earth by Holly Casio

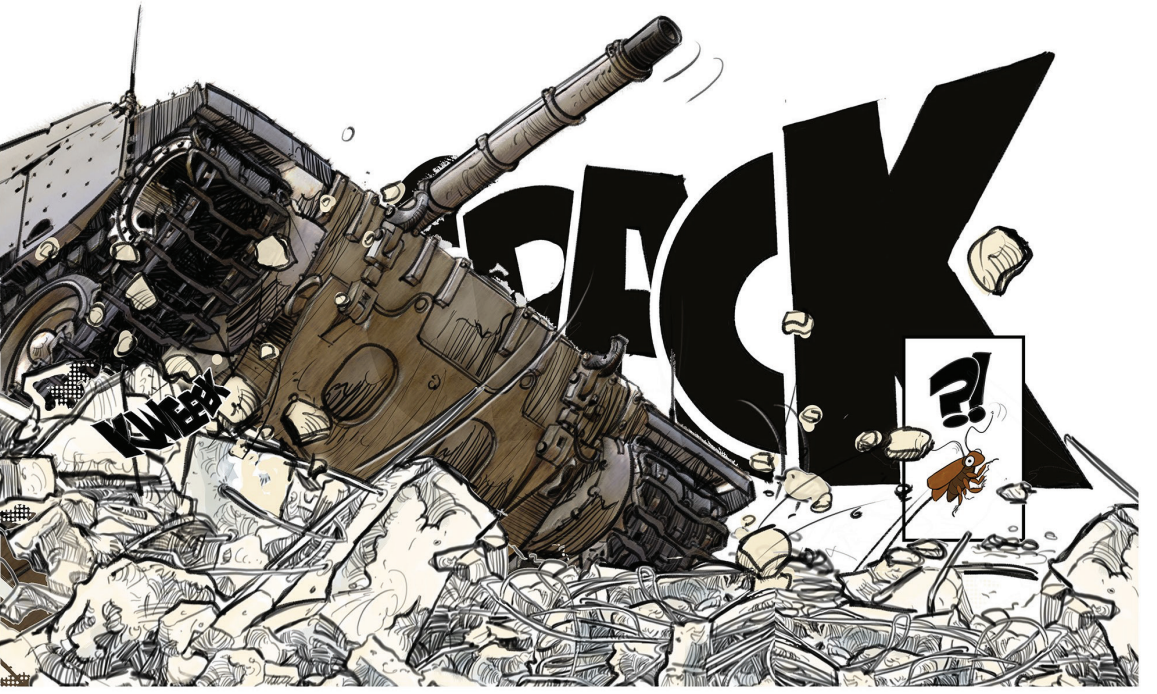


What Do You Dream About? by Billy Ruffian

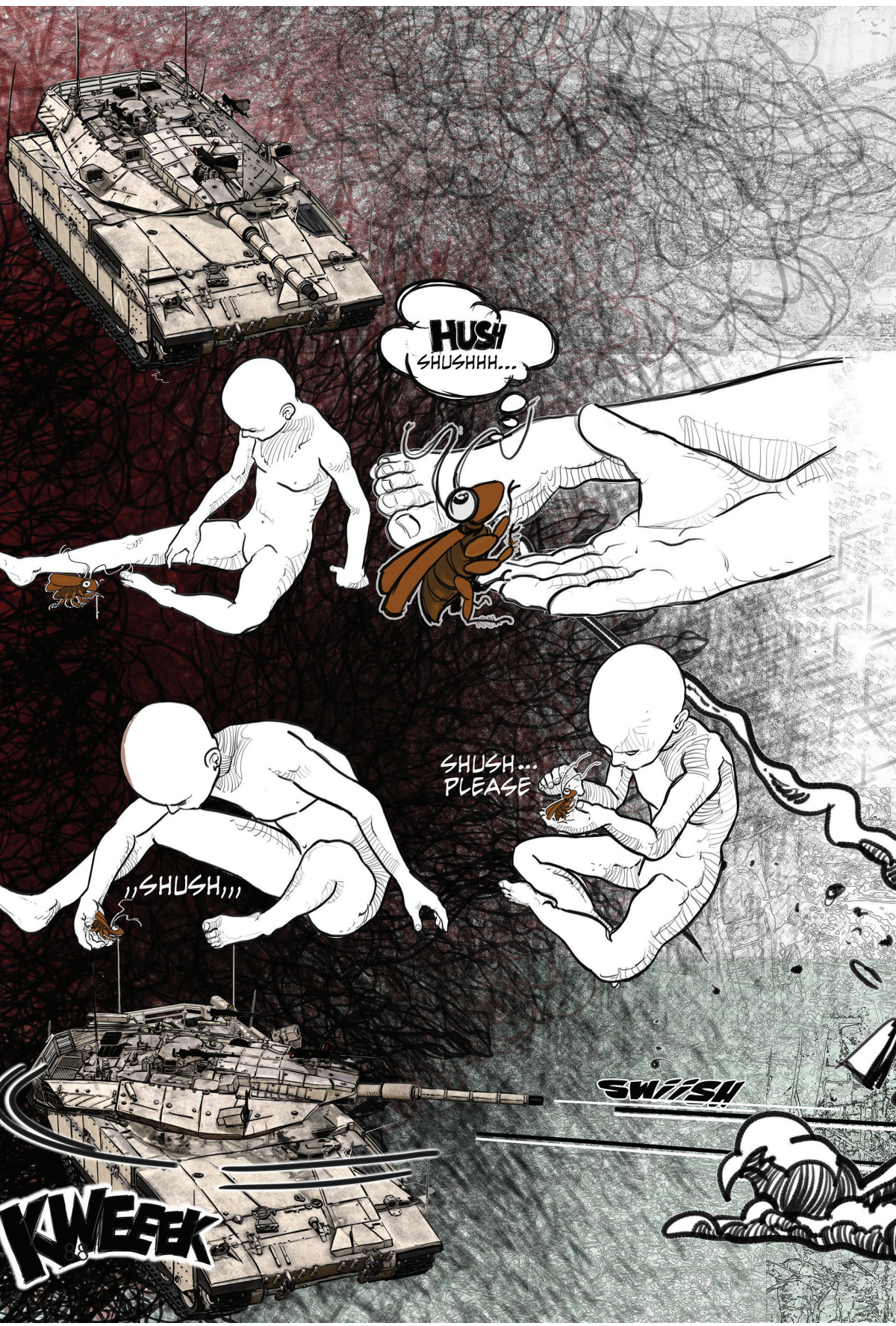
what do you dream about?

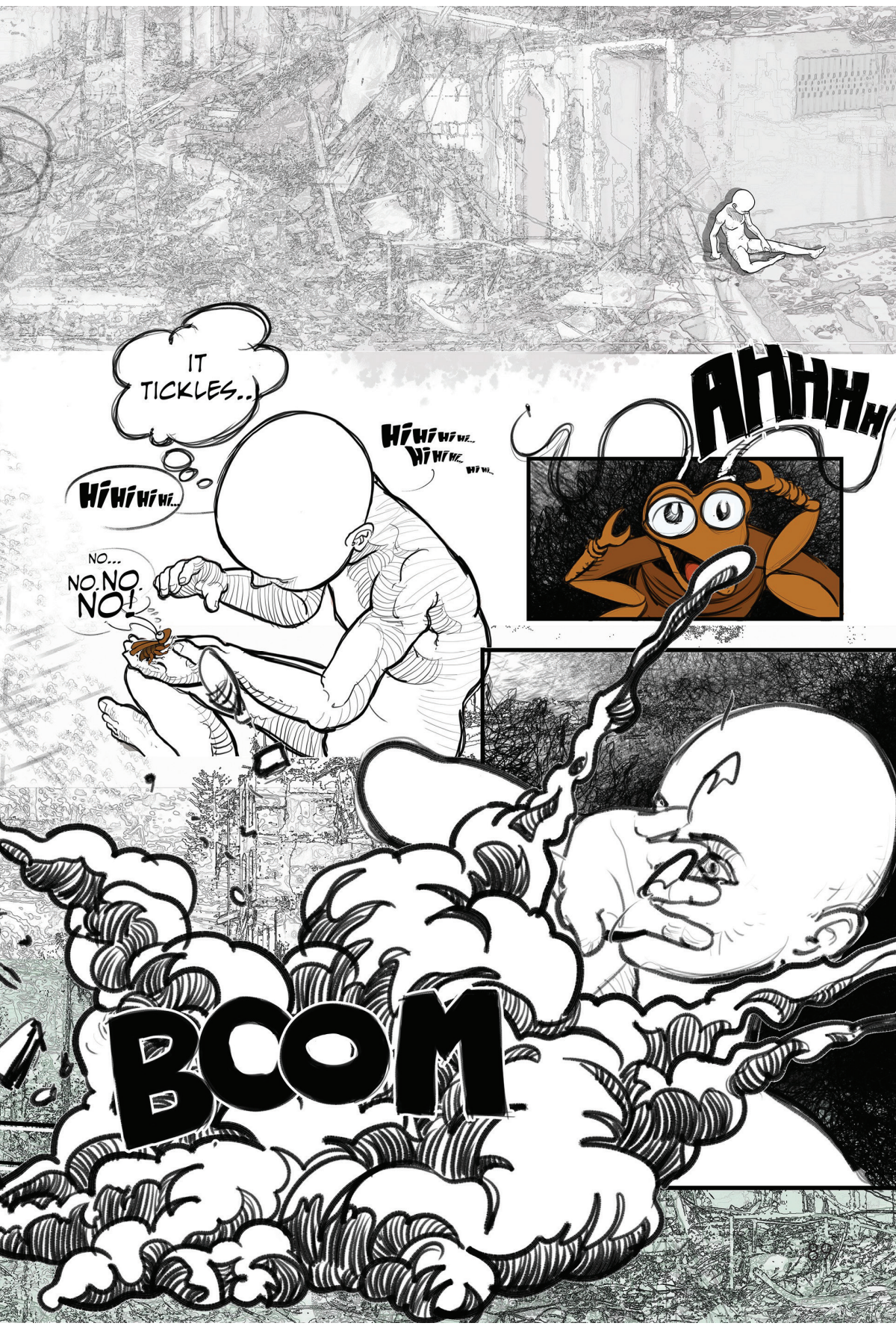
home.

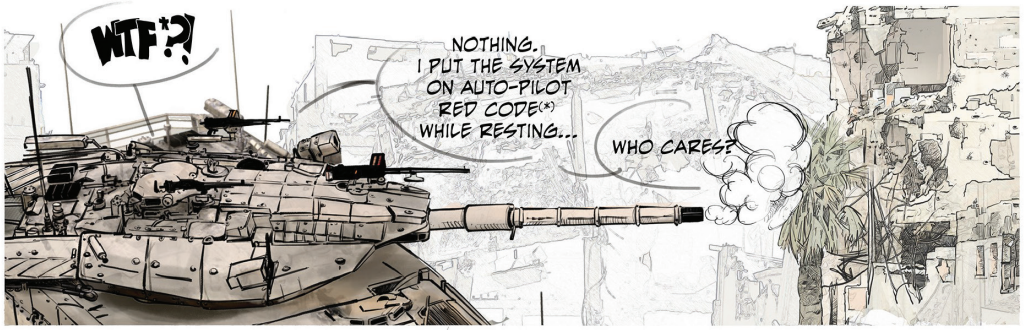
Of Being Insignificant by JAD



OF BEING INSIGNIFICANT


HUSH
SHUSHHH...
SHUSH... PLEASE
„SHUSH„
SWIISH
KWEEEK


IT TICKLES..
HiHiHiHi..
HiHiHiHi..
HiHiHi..
HiHiHi..
NO... NO.NO. NO!
AHHHH
BOOM



(*)AUTO-PILOT A.I. "RED CODE LEVEL": HI-FI DETECTOR OF SOUND, MOTION, OR ENVIRONMENT USED FOR AUTOMATIC ENGAGEMENT AND ACCURATE TARGETING...

Operation Iron Equality by Matt Bors

ISRAEL WILL NOT SLEEP UNTIL HAMAS IS FULLY DESTROYED WITHOUT MERCY.
COMMENCE OPERATION IRON EQUALITY!
"IN PHASE 1, WE WILL BOMBARD GAZA WITH WATER, FOOD, POWER, FUEL, AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES. THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING WILL BE RELENTLESSLY IMPROVED!"
INCOMING!
"UNDERMINING HAMAS SUPPORT IS CRITICAL. HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS ARE LEGITIMATE TARGETS... FOR WAVES OF JOBS, EDUCATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS."
THEY'RE IN THERE— REFURBISH THE N.I.C.U. WING!
"AFTER WE CORNER THEM INTO LIVES OF HOPE, WE CRUSH HAMAS BY GRANTING FULL CITIZENSHIP AND THE RIGHT OF RETURN, STRANGLING OFF FUTURE RECRUITS."
NOT A CHANCE, SIR, I HAVE A LOT TO LIVE FOR.
TOTAL VICTORY OVER TERROR!
NOW TO SIMPLY LIVE SIDE BY SIDE WITH PALESTINIANS.
WAIT—NO! HOW DID THEY DEFEAT US LIKE THIS?
WAR IS HELL.
BORS

Questions For My Family by Ethan Heitner

QUESTIONS FOR MY FAMILY
WHEN THE WAR WAS STILL YOUNG
AND THERE WERE HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS IN GAZA
AND SO MANY MORE CHILDREN
I SAID TO YOU
Nobody wins a war!
YOU LOOKED AT ME AND SAID
It's sad, but there can't be any cease-fire until Hamas is destroyed.
I WISH I HAD SAID
... what does that even mean?
IF WE WOKE UP TOMORROW AND FOUND OUT THAT ISRAEL HOW, MAGICALLY, QUIETLY
ISRAEL KILLED EVERY MEMBER OF HAMAS, EVERY MEMBER OF ANY ARMED RESISTANCE GROUP
WITHOUT HARMING A SINGLE OTHER PERSON

WOULD PALESTINIANS STOP FIGHTING FOR THEIR FREEDOM?
IF ISRAEL KILLS 200 PALESTINIANS TO RESCUE FOUR HOSTAGES, IS THAT AN EQUAL EXCHANGE? HOW MANY DEATHS IS TOO MANY?
AND IF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF POLITE, FORMAL LETTERS AND PETITIONS TO OUR ELECTED LEADERS, MILLIONS OF PHONE CALLS HAVE BEEN IGNORED
IF MASS PROTEST
LED BY GRIEVING RABBIS AND HEART-BROKEN PARENTS
CEASE FIRE
IF SONGS AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE AND HUNGER STRIKES
AND GRAVER SACRIFICES
HAVE FAILED TO STOP THIS WAR
—DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY WE MAY SEEM DESPERATE, OVER-WROUGHT, IMPOLITE, UNDONE?

IF YOU NEED PALESTINIANS TO BE UTTERLY SUBMISSIVE, TO ACCEPT TOTAL SURRENDER IN ORDER FOR YOU TO FEEL SAFE
IF YOUR VISION OF VICTORY IS A MASS GRAVE BENEATH A FIELD OF RUBBLE
CAN I STILL LOVE YOU?

First published in
overland.org.au, 2024

Walk Rhymes by Sam Wallman

Student Intifada by Golrokh Nafisi

EVERY BARRICADE IS OUR UNIVERSITY

AMSTERDAM MAY 2024

REMEMBER THOSE WHO STOOD AGAINST BULLDOZERS

AMSTERDAM MAY 2024

SUDDENLY, THE MOUNTAINS EMERGED
IN AMSTERDAM, THEN WE EMBRACED
EACH OTHER AT THE SUMMIT OF THE MOUNTAINS

Sabra and Chatila by Lena Merhej

First Published in *Assafir Newspaper*,
Editor Sahar Mandour

Translation by Yazan al-Saadi:

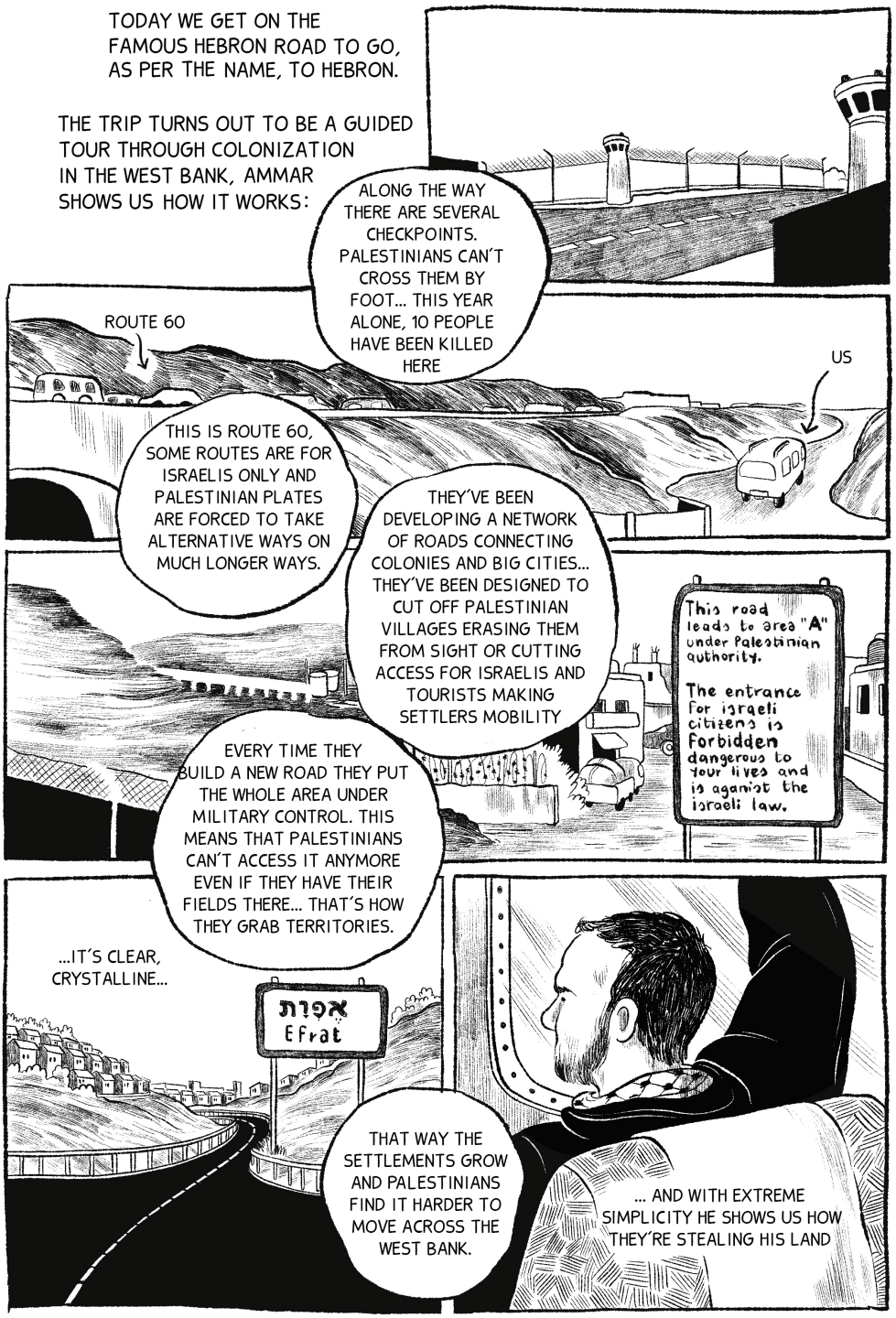
1. How many times have we killed ourselves...

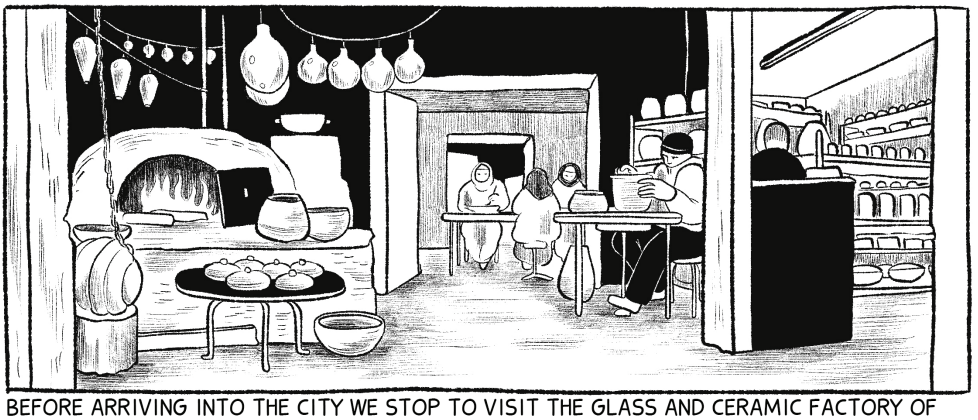
2. ...so we can rest and sleep?

3. And how many times have we woken up
on a new day and we said

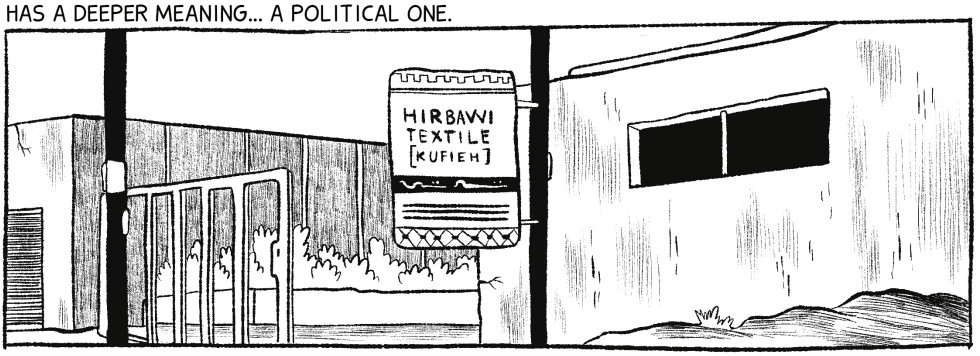
4. We remain we remain we remain

Excerpt of *Tracciato Palestina* by Elena Mistrello

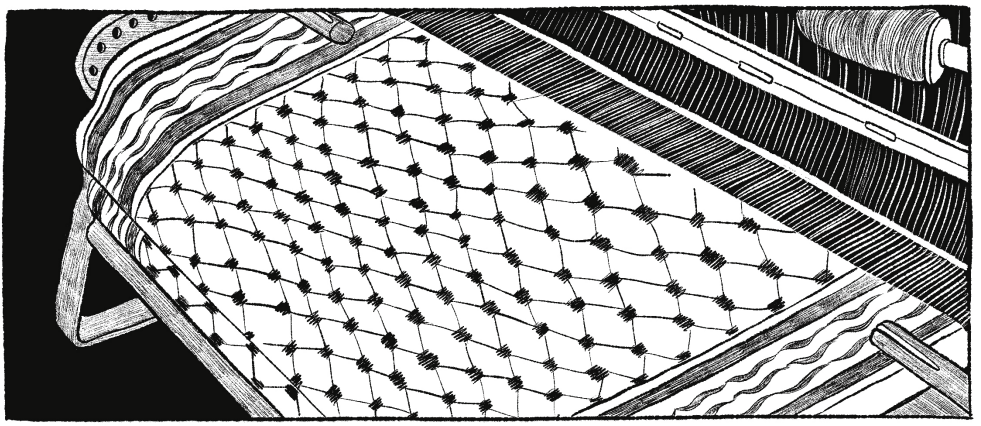

TODAY WE GET ON THE FAMOUS HEBRON ROAD TO GO, AS PER THE NAME, TO HEBRON.
THE TRIP TURNS OUT TO BE A GUIDED TOUR THROUGH COLONIZATION IN THE WEST BANK, AMMAR SHOWS US HOW IT WORKS:
ALONG THE WAY THERE ARE SEVERAL CHECKPOINTS. PALESTINIANS CAN'T CROSS THEM BY FOOT... THIS YEAR ALONE, 10 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED HERE
ROUTE 60
US
THIS IS ROUTE 60, SOME ROUTES ARE FOR ISRAELIS ONLY AND PALESTINIAN PLATES ARE FORCED TO TAKE ALTERNATIVE WAYS ON MUCH LONGER WAYS.
THEY'VE BEEN DEVELOPING A NETWORK OF ROADS CONNECTING COLONIES AND BIG CITIES... THEY'VE BEEN DESIGNED TO CUT OFF PALESTINIAN VILLAGES ERASING THEM FROM SIGHT OR CUTTING ACCESS FOR ISRAELIS AND TOURISTS MAKING SETTLERS MOBILITY
This road leads to area "A" under Palestinian authority.
The entrance for israeli citizens is Forbidden dangerous to your lives and is against the israeli law.
EVERY TIME THEY BUILD A NEW ROAD THEY PUT THE WHOLE AREA UNDER MILITARY CONTROL. THIS MEANS THAT PALESTINIANS CAN'T ACCESS IT ANYMORE EVEN IF THEY HAVE THEIR FIELDS THERE... THAT'S HOW THEY GRAB TERRITORIES.
...IT'S CLEAR, CRYSTALLINE...
אפרת
Efrat
THAT WAY THE SETTLEMENTS GROW AND PALESTINIANS FIND IT HARDER TO MOVE ACROSS THE WEST BANK.
... AND WITH EXTREME SIMPLICITY HE SHOWS US HOW THEY'RE STEALING HIS LAND



BEFORE ARRIVING INTO THE CITY WE STOP TO VISIT THE GLASS AND CERAMIC FACTORY OF HEBRON AND THE LAST KUFHIAS FACTORY IN PALESTINE.
BEYOND THE SKILLS AND BEAUTY OF THESE CRAFTSMEN... THE EXISTANCE OF THESE FACTORIES HAS A DEEPER MEANING... A POLITICAL ONE.



ISRAEL RENDERED PALESTINIAN ECONOMY ALMOST FULLY DEPENDENT FROM ISTSELF, DESTROYING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND VILLAGES ECONOMY.
OPENING ANY ACTIVITY REQUIRES PERMITS THAT ISRAEL DOESN'T GIVE OUT, IT'S HARD THEN TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO SUPPORT PALESTINIANS... BUT THESE ACTIVITIES ARE SOME GOOD EXAMPLES.



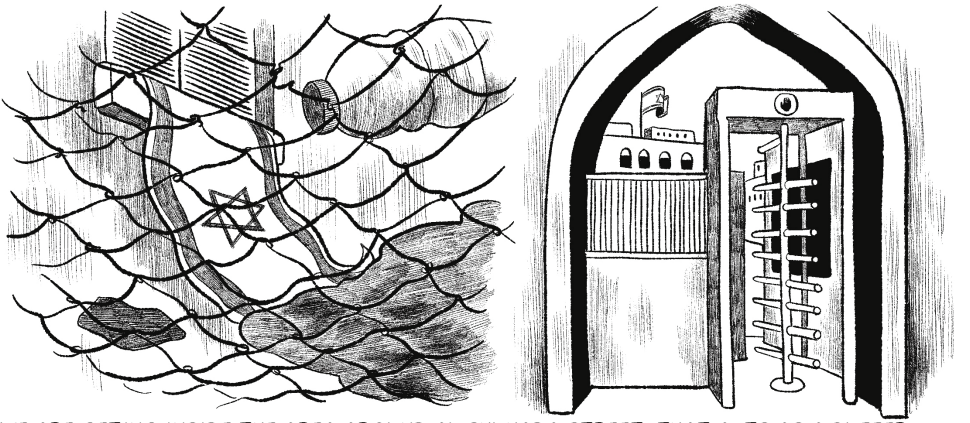
THEXTERNAL PART OF HEBRON IS STILL ENTIRELY PALESTINIAN,
WE GO THROUGH THE NOISY MARKET TOWARDS THE OLD TOWN...

FROM HERE ON I ASK YOU NOT TO TAKE PHOTOS... DON'T LOOK, DON'T REACT NEITHER TO SOLDIERS NOR TO SETTLERS, AVOID SPEAKING ABOUT PALESTINE AND POLITICS IN GENERAL
JUST LAST YEAR A GROUP OF ITALIANS GOT EXPELLED FROM ISRAEL FOR DEFENDING A PALESTINIAN FROM A SETTLER AGGRESSION.
THAT IS THE HOTEL THAT WAS OCCUPIED IN 1968 BY SETTLERS... THAT'S WHERE HEBRON OCCUPATION STARTED... THEY NEVER LEFT. NOW HERE LIVE 800 SETTLERS, 40000 PALESTINIANS AND 4000 SOLDIERS. PALESTINIANS CAN'T USE UPPER FLOORS OF THEIR HOMES...
AS WE GET CLOSER THE ATMOSPHERE CHANGES...
WE START SEEING SOLDIERS ON THE ROOFS, FLAGS AND BANNERS...
IT'S ONE OF THE MORE RADICAL, VIOLENT, RACIST CURRENTS OF THE ZIONIST ORTODHOX MOVEMENT, THE "GUSH E MUNIN". THE OCCUPATION OF HEBRON STARTED AFTER THEIR INITATIVE AND THEN WAS SUPPORTED BY THE ARMY AND THE STATE. THE GUSH E MUNIN HAVE A ARMED BRANCH, COOPERATING WITH THE ARMY AS A DE FACTO PART OF IT.
LIKE YOU WILL SEE IN THE SUK, NOW SETTLERS LIVE THERE, AND THEY THROW WASTE, ACIDS, URINE AND OBJECTS... PALESTINIANS HAD TO PUT UP NETS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES. HOUSES HERE CAN NEVER BE EMPTY, THEY COULD BE OCCUPIED ANYTIME.

WE GO THROUGH THE OLD TOWN SUK, THIS AREA IS MIXED, JUST LIKE AMMAR TOLD US.
ON THE FLOOR ABOVE THERE'S SETTLERS. HERE THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT COMPARED TO THE MARKET OUTSIDE... THERE'S NO MORE CHAOS, LESS NOISES.

WE GO THROUGH QUICKLY, IN SILENCE... WE VAGUELY LOOK AT ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE FILLED WITH HISTORY...
OVER US THE NETS: DOCUMENTARIES, COMICS, NEWSPAPERS... AN ALREADY FAMILIAR IMAGE.

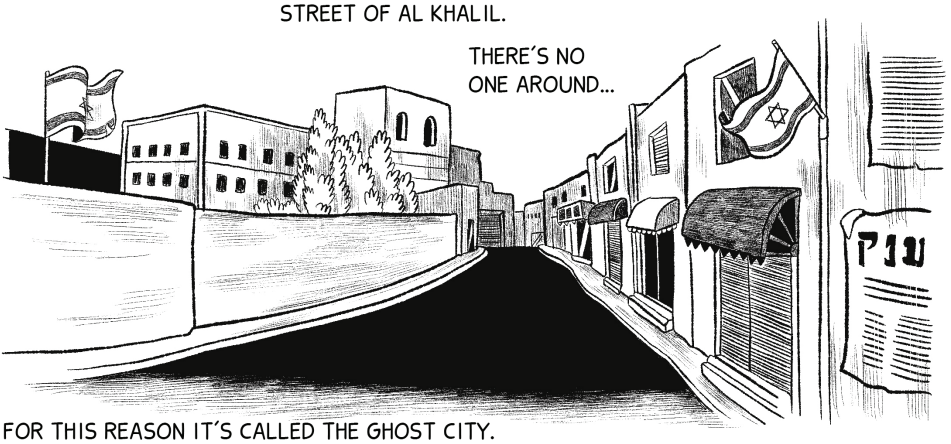
...AND YET THERE THEY ARE, UPSTAIR THE SETTLERS FLAGS AGGRESSIVELY WAVE.
WE GET TO THE END OF THE SUK, WITH THE IMPRESSION OF HAVING HELD OUR BREATH... THE CHECKPOINT.



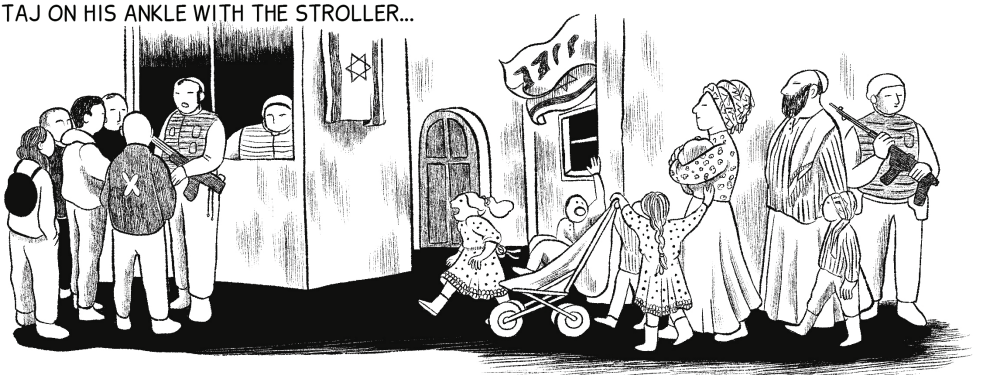
WE ARE GETING INSIDE THE AREA AROUND AL SHUHADA STREET, THAT ACTS AS A BUFFER ZONE BETWEEN HEBRON 1 AND HEBRON 2, A MILITARIZED AREA MOSTLY INTERDICTED TO PALESTINIANS.

IN THIS AREA THERE ARE ONLY 18 PALESTINIAN FAMILIES LEFT AND A SHOP... MUNIR'S SOUVENIRS SHOP, LET'S GO AND MEET HIM.
HE'S HAPPY TO SEE US, NO ONE PASSES TROUGH HERE ANYMORE BUT HIM KEEPING THE SHOP OPEN IS AN ACT OF RESISTANCE...
SALAM!
HEBRON ISN'T INCLUDED IN OSLO AGREEMENTS... IT'S DIVIDED IN TWO AREAS IN 1997, A PALESTINIAN AND A ISRAELI ONE, BUT IN REALITY ALL OF THE OLD TOWN IS OCCUPIED, AS YOU HAVE PROBABLY SEEN.
LIFE FOR PALESTINIANS IS UNSUSTAINABLE. THOSE WHO COME IN THIS AREA CAN'T GET OUT BEFORE 7:00, WHEN THE CHECK POINT OPENS AND TO GO TROUGH THESE STREETS YOU NEED PERMITS...
HEBRON
closed shop
settlement
area closoure
area no travel
area no shop no travel
check point
H1
H2
Beit Romano
THE CASBAH
TOMB OF THE PATRIARCHS
TO GET HOME, TO WORK OR SCHOOL YOU HAVE TO PASS SEVERAL CHECK POINTS AND YOU HAVE TO GO THE LONG WAY BECAUSE THESE MAIN STREETS ARE RESERVED FOR SETTLERS
SINCE GOLDSTEIN MASSACRE IN '94 THE MOSQUE AND THE SINAGOGUE ARE USED EVERY OTHER DAY BUT OBVIOULSY ALMOST ALL "SECURITY" CLOSURES HAPPEN DURING MUSLIM FESTIVITIES.
VIOLENCES AND PROVOCATIONS FROM THE SETTLERS AND THE ARMY ARE CONSTANT... EVEN ON CHILDREN. THEY WANT US TO GO AWAY... THAT'S WHY I STAY HERE, EVEN IF IT'S UNBEARABLE.
MUNIR

WE KEEP GOING... FROM HERE ON AMMAR CAN'T COME WITH US, HE'S NOT ALLOWED.
THIS IS AL SHUHADA STREET OR "MARTYRS STREET", THE OLD MARKET STREET OF AL KHALIL.

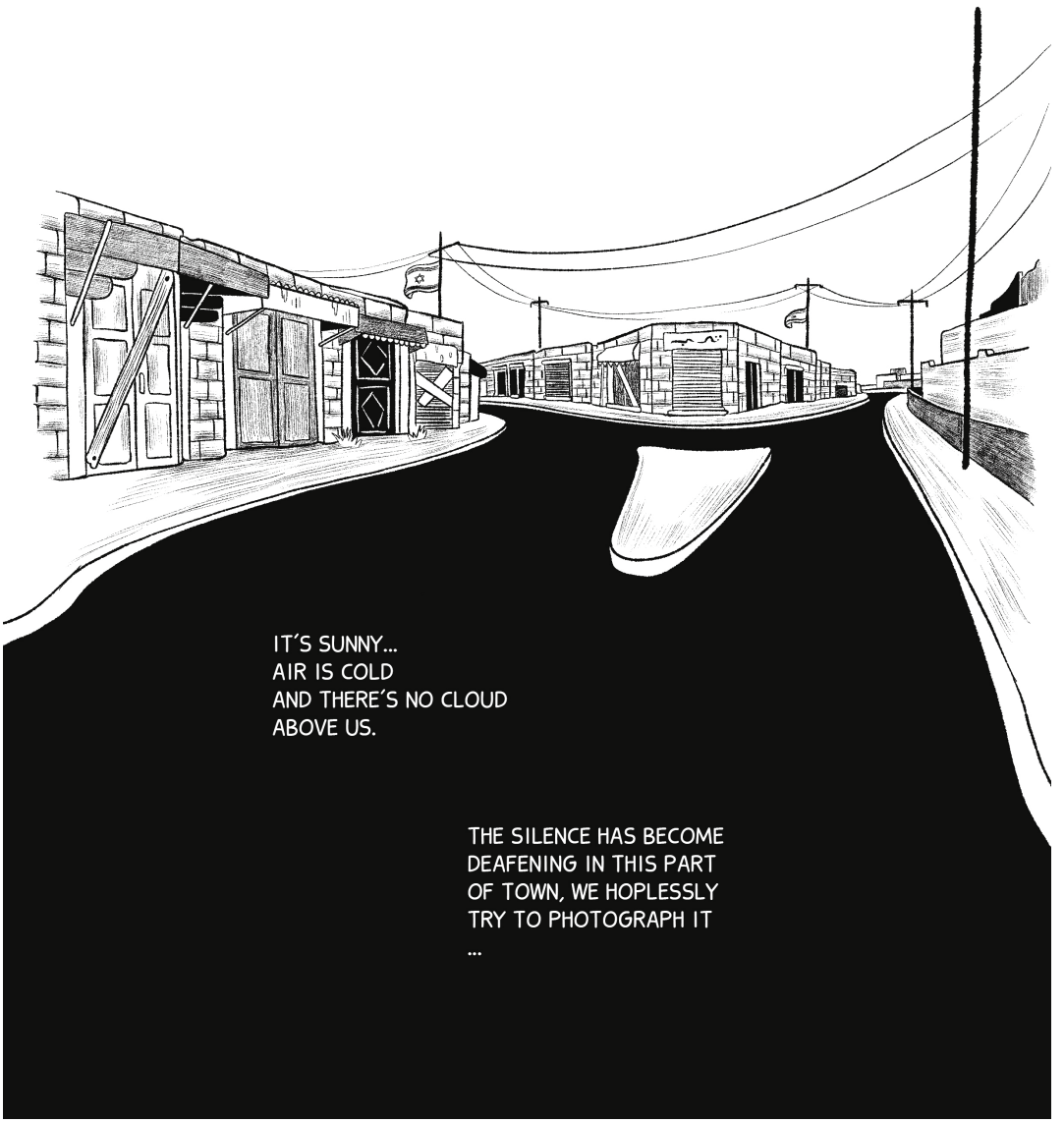


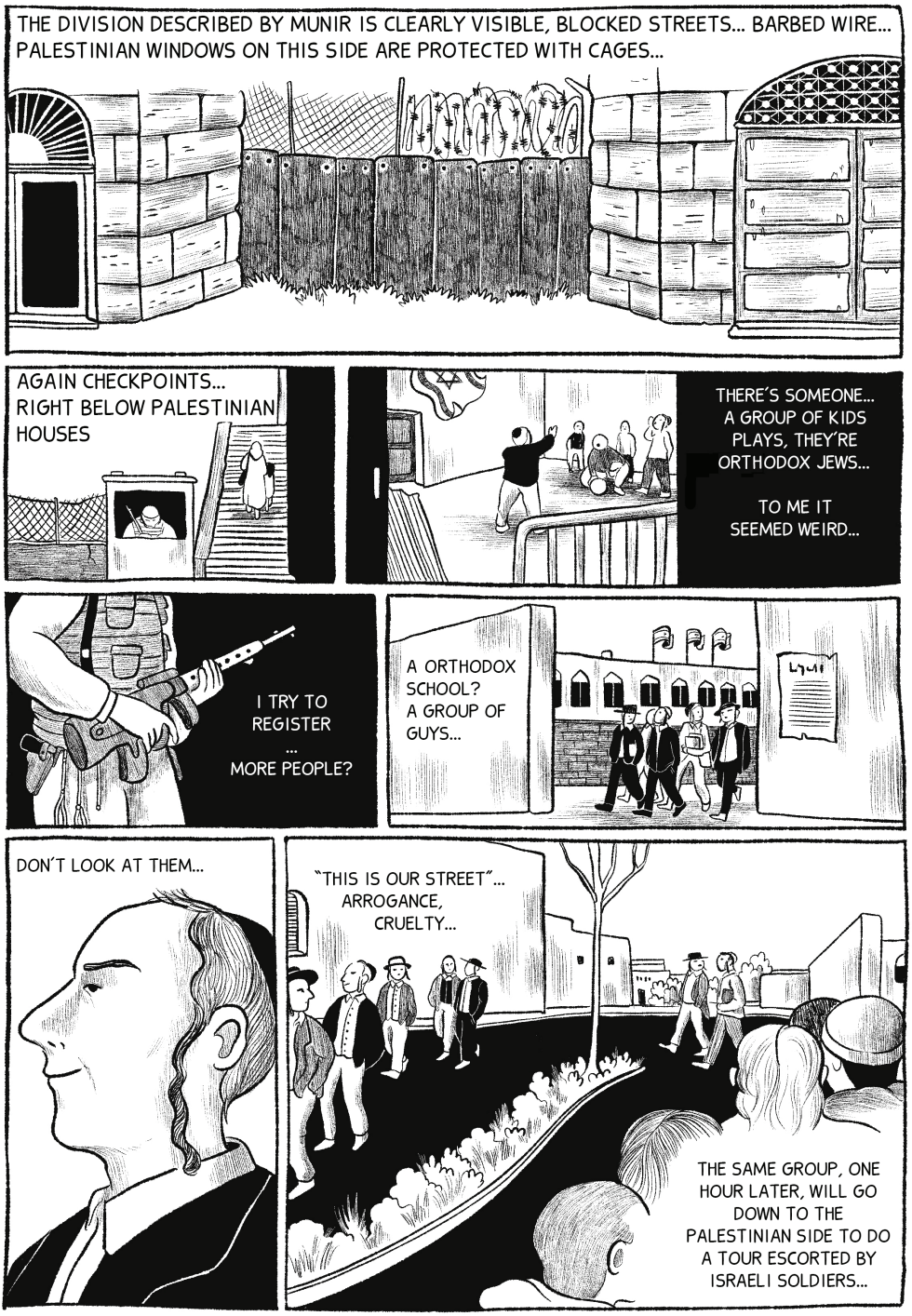
FOR THIS REASON IT'S CALLED THE GHOST CITY.
1ST CHECKPOINT... THEY ASK US FOR DOCUMENTS: TOURISM. THEY LET US GO
A BIG SETTLERS FAMILY PROUDLY PASS IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR GROUP, THE CHILDREN HIT TAJ ON HIS ANKLE WITH THE STROLLER...



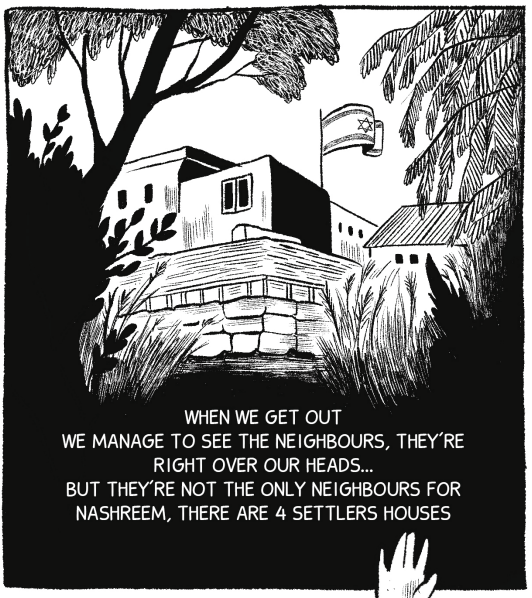
DON'T REACT, DON'T LOOK, DON'T STARE, DON'T SAY NOTHING... I CONCENTRATE, CAN'T TAKE PHOTOS... I HAVE TO REGISTER INFORMATIONS... NO NO INFORMATIONS... I HAVE TO REMEMBER THIS TENSION, THIS SENSE OF HORROR... I MUST NOT FORGET IT...

FOR A WHILE WE
DON'T MEET ANYBODY, JUST
CHECKPOINTS...
AS SOON AS WE CAN WE
TAKE OUT OUR CAMERAS...




THE DIVISION DESCRIBED BY MUNIR IS CLEARLY VISIBLE, BLOCKED STREETS... BARBED WIRE... PALESTINIAN WINDOWS ON THIS SIDE ARE PROTECTED WITH CAGES...
AGAIN CHECKPOINTS... RIGHT BELOW PALESTINIAN HOUSES
THERE'S SOMEONE... A GROUP OF KIDS PLAYS, THEY'RE ORTHODOX JEWS...
TO ME IT SEEMED WEIRD...
I TRY TO REGISTER ... MORE PEOPLE?
A ORTHODOX SCHOOL? A GROUP OF GUYS...
DON'T LOOK AT THEM...
"THIS IS OUR STREET"... ARROGANCE, CRUELTY...
THE SAME GROUP, ONE HOUR LATER, WILL GO DOWN TO THE PALESTINIAN SIDE TO DO A TOUR ESCORTED BY ISRAELI SOLDIERS...

WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH NASHREEM AZZEH, HER YOUNGER DAUGHTER COMES TO PICK US UP.
NASHREM AZZEH
YESTERDAY MY DAUGHTER HURT HER ANKLE... AT THE CHECKPOINT THEY DID NOT ALLOW US TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
IT WILL HARD TO LIVE HERE.
NASHREEN TELLS US ABOUT HER HUSBAND HASHEM, INVOLVED FOR YEARS IN BRINGING INTERNATIONALS TO HEBRON TO SHOW AND TELL THEM ABOUT THEIR SITUATION. FOR THE SAME REASONS OF MUNIR HASHEM NEVER WANTED TO LEAVE HIS LAND.
THESE ARE MY OLIVE TREES
HASHEM AZZEH
NAZIS!! THE LORD GAVE US THIS LAND!!
RELATIVES CAN'T VISIT US AND WE NEED A SPECIAL PERMIT TO LEAVE THE CITY...
HE DIED IN 2015 AFTER A FAILED RESECUE DURING GAS TEAR ATTACKS... THE AMBULANCE WAS STOPPED AND NEVER CAME.
SETTLERS AGGRESSIONS ARE CONSTANT: THEY THROW STONES ON US AND OUR WINDOWS, THEY CUT OUR WATER, THEY DON'T ALLOW US TO COLLECT OUR OLIVES OR CARE FOR THE TREES... THEY SHOOT.
SHE SHOWS US A VIDEO IN ITALIAN...
THEY WANT US TO GO... THEY CONSIDER THIS LAND AS GIVEN BY GOD... BUT WE STAY FOR HASHEM TOO.
IT'S REALLY HARD TO LIVE HERE...
THE SAME YOUNGER DAUGHTER ACCOMPANIES US BACK...



WHEN WE GET OUT
WE MANAGE TO SEE THE NEIGHBOURS, THEY'RE RIGHT OVER OUR HEADS...
BUT THEY'RE NOT THE ONLY NEIGHBOURS FOR NASHREEM, THERE ARE 4 SETTLERS HOUSES

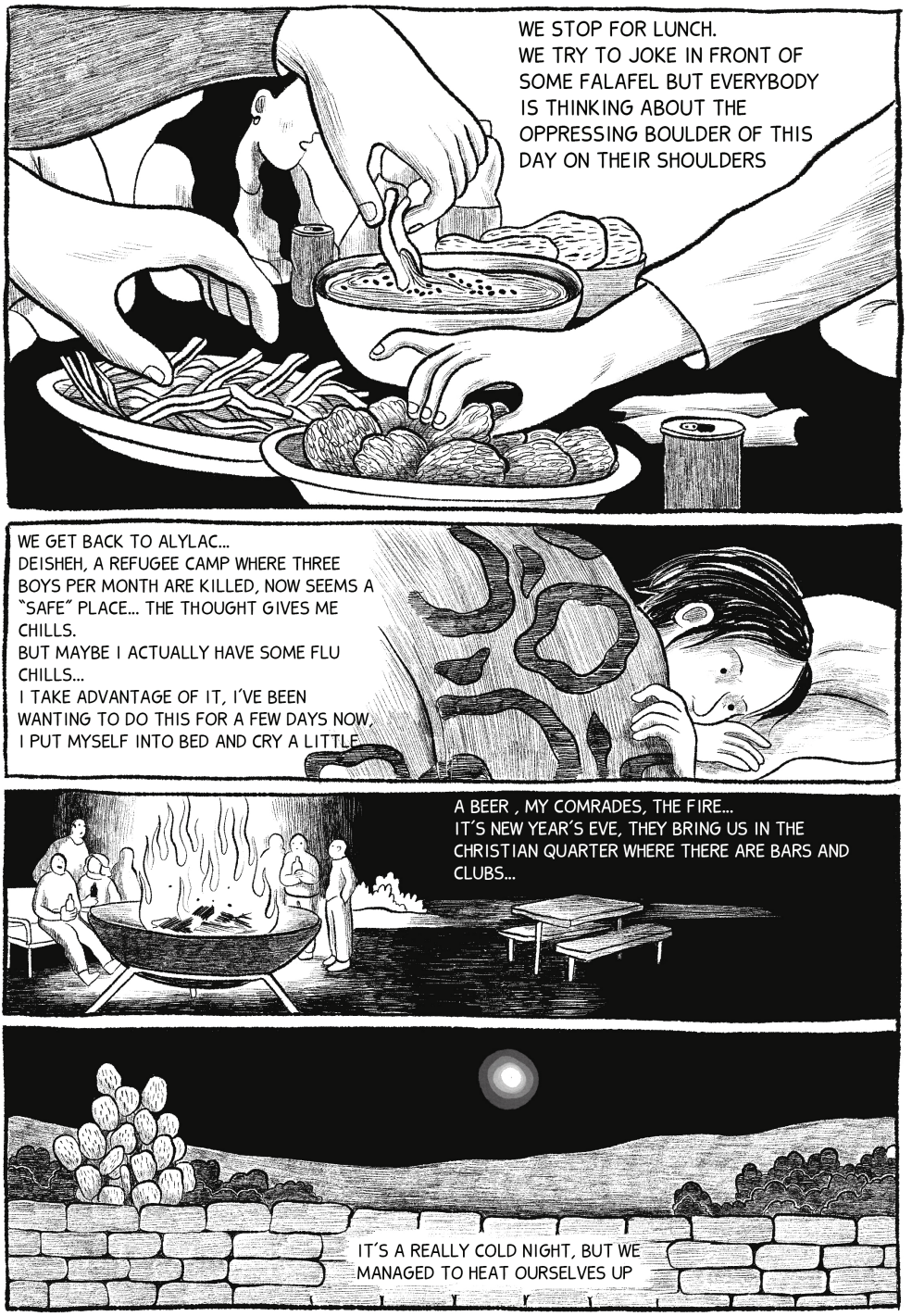
A CHILD IS RUNNING...
WE BARELY SEE HIM... MAYBE THEY NOTICED US.

I CAN'T REPRODUCE THE ENTIRE STORY OF NASHREEM AND HER DAUGHTERS... BUT IT'S WELL DOCUMENTED. YOU CAN FIND NUMEROUS VIDEOS AND ARTICLES. THEY HAVE BEEN FIGHTING AND RESISTING THE HORROR IN HEBRON FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS. TODAY NOTHING HAS CHANGED...

SHE SMILES BUT IT LOOKS LIKE A PAINFUL SMILE...

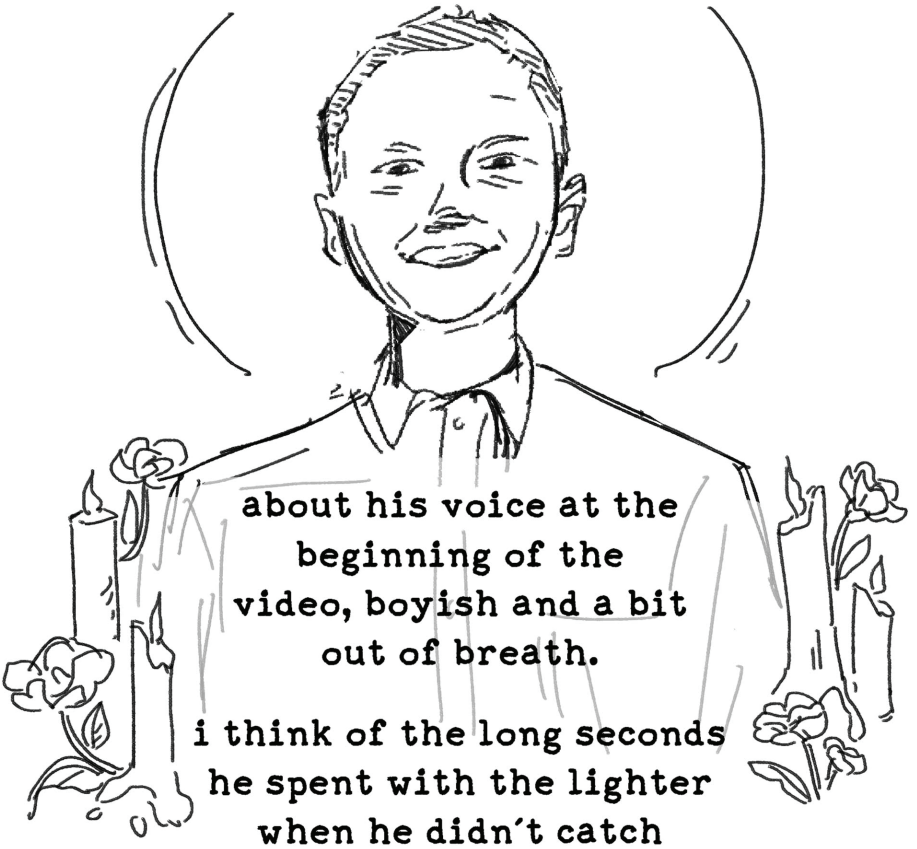
THE DAUGHTER STOPS SHORT BEFORE THE CHECK POINT... SHE STAND STILL WATCHING US UNTIL WE TURN AROUND THE CORNER, SHE SEEMS LIKE SHE WANTS TO MAKE SURE WE GET BACK WITH NO INCIDENTS... SHE SAYS GOODBYE TO EACH AND EVERYONE OF US.

I DID NOT WANT TO GO BUT AT THE SAME TIME I CAN'T WAIT TO RUN AWAY FROM HEBRON.


WE STOP FOR LUNCH.
WE TRY TO JOKE IN FRONT OF SOME FALAFEL BUT EVERYBODY IS THINKING ABOUT THE OPPRESSING BOULDER OF THIS DAY ON THEIR SHOULDERS
WE GET BACK TO ALYLAC...
DEISHEH, A REFUGEE CAMP WHERE THREE BOYS PER MONTH ARE KILLED, NOW SEEMS A "SAFE" PLACE... THE THOUGHT GIVES ME CHILLS.
BUT MAYBE I ACTUALLY HAVE SOME FLU CHILLS...
I TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT, I'VE BEEN WANTING TO DO THIS FOR A FEW DAYS NOW, I PUT MYSELF INTO BED AND CRY A LITTLE
A BEER , MY COMRADES, THE FIRE...
IT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE, THEY BRING US IN THE CHRISTIAN QUARTER WHERE THERE ARE BARS AND CLUBS...
IT'S A REALLY COLD NIGHT, BUT WE MANAGED TO HEAT OURSELVES UP

Thinking About Aaron Bushnell by Jess Peng

i've been thinking
about aaron bushnell.



about his voice at the
beginning of the
video, boyish and a bit
out of breath.

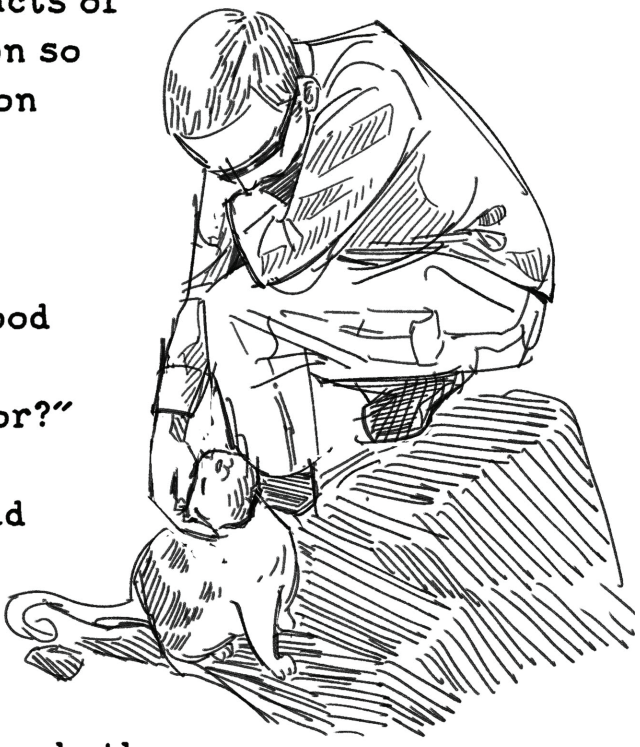
i think of the long seconds
he spent with the lighter
when he didn't catch
alight the first try.

i am thinking of playwright victor
i. cazares, who went without their
HIV meds for 125 days

hoping to convince the New York
Theatre Workshop to call for a
ceasefire in Gaza - something it
still has not done.

from what i've seen, a common gut reaction when witnessing extreme acts of protest is a confusion so powerful it borders on revulsion.

people ask "what good does it do?"
"is it worth dying for?"
and if so,
"how exactly would dying help?"



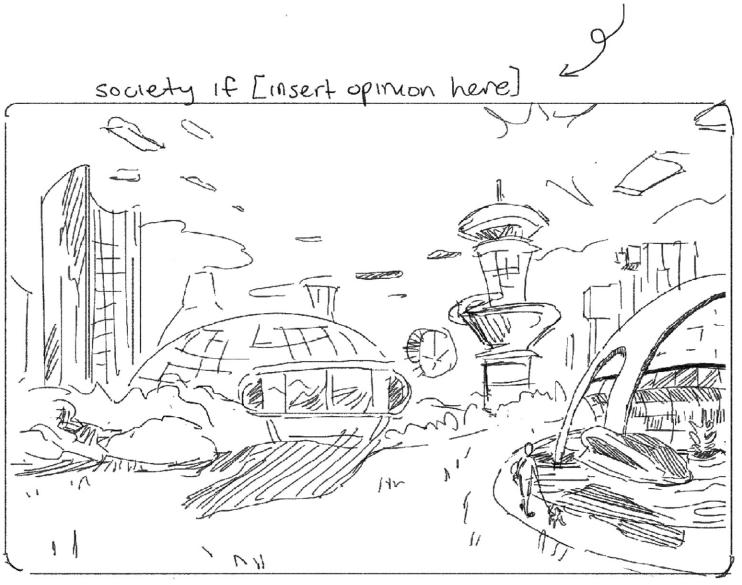
all questions i imagine both aaron and victor must have asked themselves countless times.

i think of the conviction, the clarity of purpose that this kind of protest takes. i think of aaron meticulously writing out his will. i think of victor, whose ask was so small, who'd poured their very heart into the theatre that refused again and again to save their life.

and as aaron burns, and gaza burns, and as every single day i read on the letstalkpalestine broadcast channel that another several dozen have been killed, joe biden eats ice cream on camera and says "we're close, we're close."

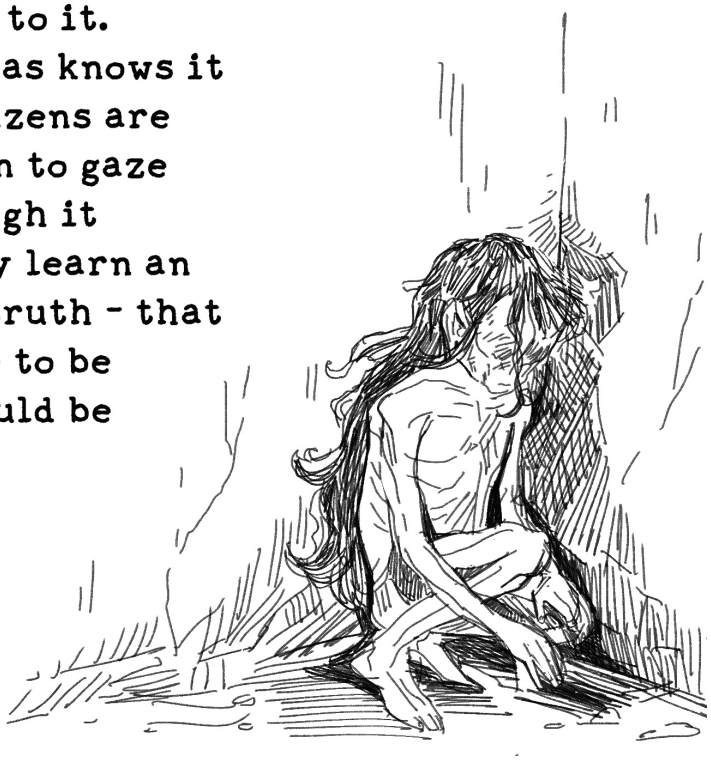
in shaun's video titled "palestine," he spends a few minutes talking about "the ones who walk away from Omelas," a short story by ursula k. leguin.

in it, the narrator asks the reader to imagine a utopia called Omelas, where everyone lives in perfect happiness. she encourages the reader to customize Omelas to their liking.

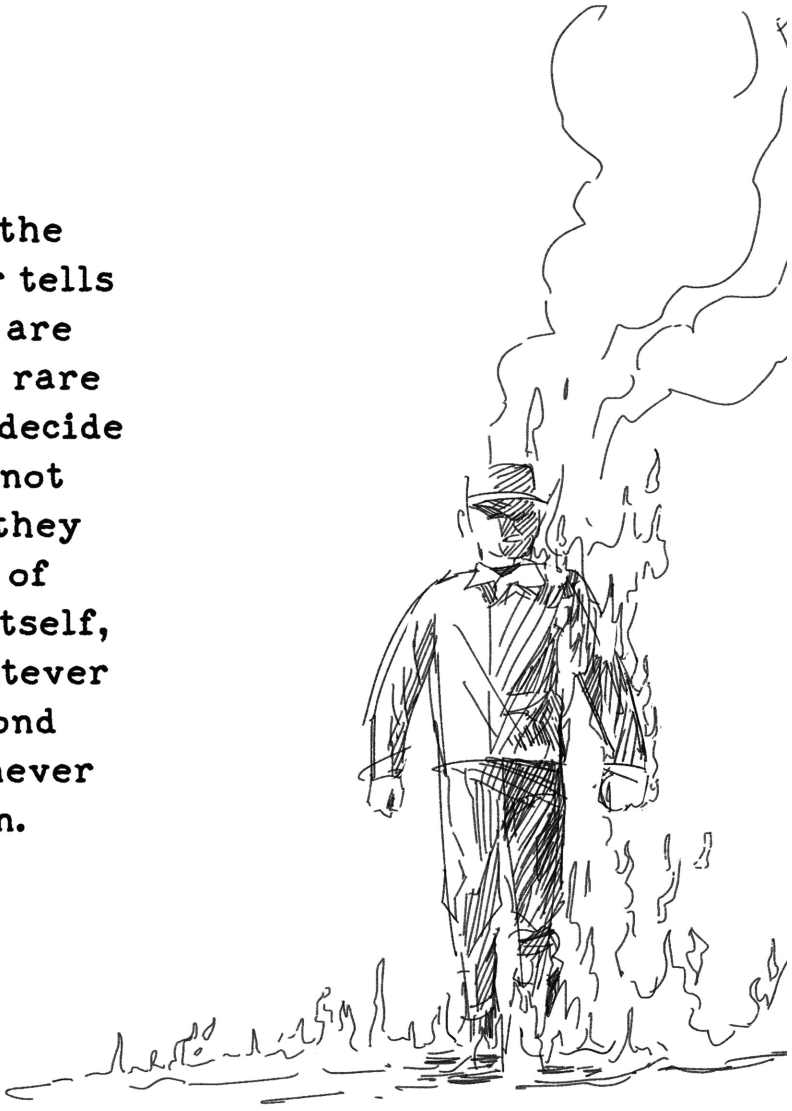


then, she asks the reader if they find paradise hard to believe. she asks the reader if they're thinking, there has to be a catch.

well, here it is: somewhere underneath Omelas, in a tiny room, there is a single child kept in darkness and filth. no one can help it, no one can comfort it, nor speak a single kind word to it. everyone in Omelas knows it is there. the citizens are taken as children to gaze upon it, and though it upsets them, they learn an unquestionable truth - that if the child were to be saved, Omelas would be destroyed.

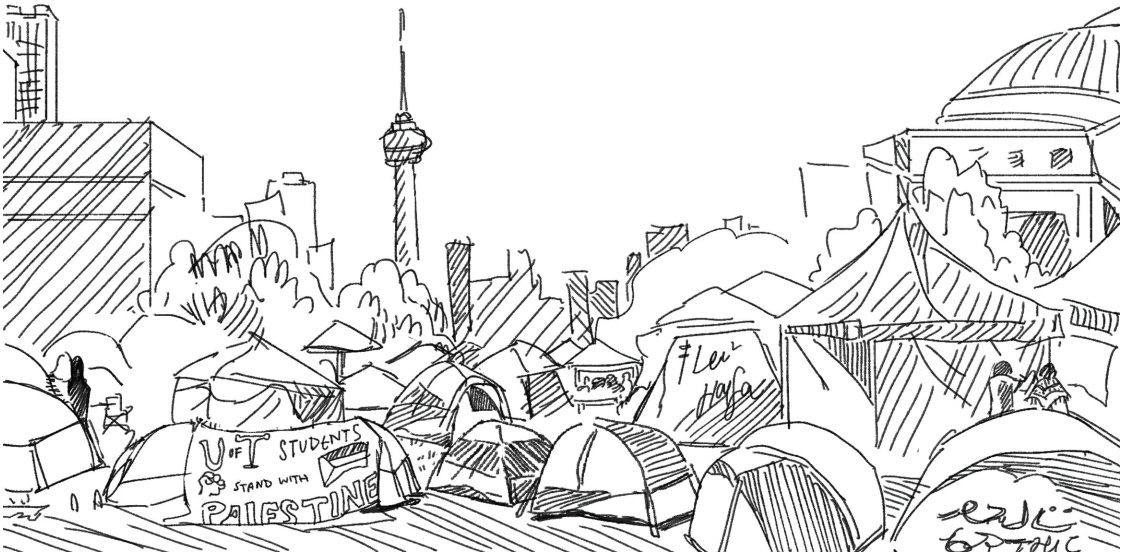


finally, the
narrator tells
us there are
the very rare
few who decide
they cannot
bear it. they
walk out of
heaven itself,
into whatever
lies beyond
Omelas, never
to return.



but, as big joel points out in his video about the short story, "the ones who walk away from Omelas" is, beyond a thought experiment about utilitarianism, also about a failure of imagination.

after all, leguin first describes Omelas with no catch at all.



aaron bushnell was heavily involved in a local mutual aid org feeding his homeless neighbours. i leave you now with a comment he once posted on reddit:

I've realized that a lot of the difference between me and my less radical friends is that they are less capable of imagining a better world than I am. I follow YouTubers like Andrewism that fill my head with concrete images of free, post-scarcity communities and it makes me so much more prepared to reject things about the current world, because I've imagined how things could be and that helps me see how extremely bullshit things are right now.

What I'm trying to say is, it's so important to imagine a better world. Let your thoughts run wild with idealistic dreams of what the world *should* look like, and let the pain and anger at how it's not that way flow through you. Let it free your mind and fuel your rage against the machine.

It's not too late for you or anyone. We can have the world of our dreams tomorrow, but we have to be willing to fight today.

A FREE
PALESTINE
WITHIN OUR
LIFETIME

Overwhelmed by Loss by Dan Archer

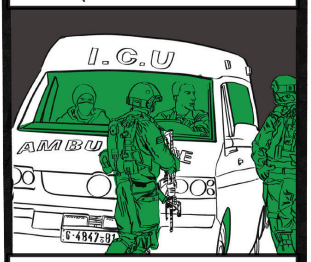
My friend Saed and I first met over a decade ago in California and stay in touch over messenger.
I missed your British accent.
I like it, I like it. It's better than some of the accents here.
His trademark smile masks a wellspring of resilience. He even had a folk song written about him:
My birthday was coming up, it was a good birthday song* ...
... with death squads, but, you know...
*The ballad of Saed - by David Rovics
But the gallows humour masks a very real pain.
I have a friend from Gaza city...
... who lost 26 members of his family.
And a friend from Khan Younis who lost several members.
He's an exiled journalist, living in the Pacific north-west, USA.
It's so hard.
But I have to keep writing.
Growing up in Palestine you can't help but notice as a young kid that you're under occupation.
There were always soldiers in our neighborhoods. They walk between the houses with maps, a sign that something is wrong.
Anywhere else you wouldn't see soldiers walking around. That was even before the first intifada of '87.
You can't grow up in Palestine and not notice there's something very wrong here. That it's very different.

I remember once when I was around 10, at christmas, I was decorating our tree outside...
Suddenly I could hear the loud walkie talkies and heavy footsteps and they stopped.
I felt someone behind me so I turned around slowly as slowly as I could. They didn't say a thing.
I froze.
You can't help but feel you're not free. Parents tried to keep us inside, but you know how kids are.
Several years later, I was stopped while walking to a relative's house.
ID.
The soldiers were just walking around – no one was throwing stones or protesting.
While they checked my ID they threw me against a wall, kicking me. I wasn't involved in any protests at the time.
But that incident made me realize we were all targets.
A few days after that I started seeing spots under my skin – mum took me to a hospital, she's a nurse.
you're actually bleeding from your spleen.
They put me on an IV and gave me cortisone, which made my face bloated.
I was in hospital for a week.
When I was released they told me to take it easy. But soldiers stopped me again and they ripped up the report...
they didn't radio back to base so I know they didn't report it – "it was clear they were just bored".

About a year later, April 22, 1991. I was 18.
I planned to attend a protest march with my friends in our town, Beit Sahour.
At one point I was surrounded by masked men who pretended they were Palestinian protesters.
One tried talking to me in Arabic but didn't pronounce the words correctly.
<where is the location of the soldiers?>
That was when I realized I was surrounded by undercover Israelis.
הפסק!
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
I fell face first, injuring my face and breaking my teeth on the ground.
After all that, and you're still alive?!

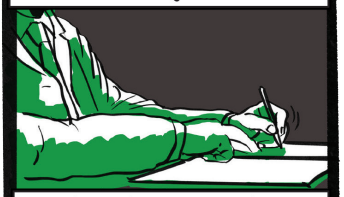
The ambulance didn't show up until 30 mins after I was shot.

A Palestinian ambulance wasn't allowed in. When an Israeli crew arrived, they first imposed a curfew ...

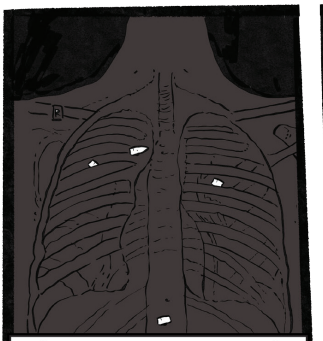


... because the medics thought I was dead.

Then they first drove me to a military base in Bethlehem, where they went through all the procedures before treating me ...



before taking me to an Israeli hospital in Jerusalem, where it would be impossible for my family to visit.

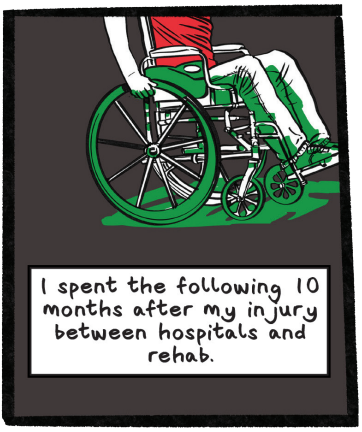


The Israeli surgeon who operated on me decided that instead of taking the care needed to extract the bullets from the lung ...

... it was easier to cut out a third of my lung and throw it away with the bullets.

One of the bullets went through my chest and lodged in my spine.

leaving me paralyzed from the waist down for life.



I spent the following 10 months after my injury between hospitals and rehab.

Rifat Odeh Kassis, director of Defense For Children International in Beit Sahour

Our main focus was to give help to these people to understand themselves, their disability ...
... and their new situation in order to have a better life in the future.

While in hospital in E jerusalem, I told the YMCA I'd been accepted as a student at Berzeit University. All universities were closed during the first intifada.
Now I'm injured I can't go to Ramallah
Can you talk to them and move my papers to Bethlehem?.

My first day in college was 10 months after I was injured. That same day there was a political event...
One thing the Israeli occupation doesn't understand ...
... is that what doesn't kill us makes us stronger.
Like a revolution!

They thought that killing us would stop us but people became determined.
The more they injure us, the more determined we get. I was the first student with a disability.
Most places aren't accessible. At the time I was always working with the admin on accessibility. I was there for 4 yrs – for 2 yrs there was no accessibility.
After me some other students in wheelchairs joined.
Now it's one of the most accessible.

During and after university, a group of us wanted some sort of alternative English Palestinian media that presents what's happening without the politics.
The International Middle East Media Centre came about in late 2003: I was preparing and announcing before then.
There was Ghassan Andoni, co-founder of International Solidarity Movement
George Nimir Rishmawi

Several media outlets have multiple outlets on the ground...
...but that's just clutter. We don't care about that. We want to just focus on the conflict.
Politicians attend local summit, dialogue contin

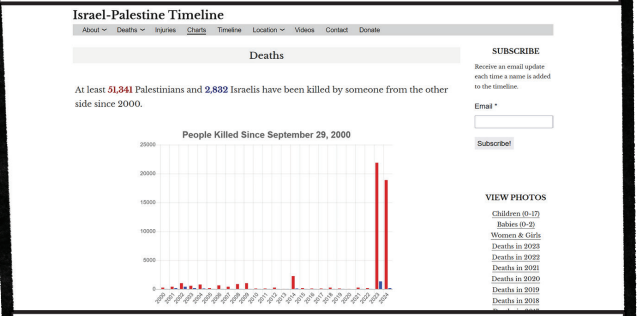
The politics we cover is directly conflict-related. We had international volunteers coming who were the live eyewitnesses to what was happening back then – what the settlers were doing.

But Israel started banning some of the internationals and introducing 10 year bans on them.

IMEMC grew to levels of very high readership.

Especially in the current situation.

I also ran the Israelpalestinetime.org that was setup by IfAmericansKnew. That was all my work.



When I contacted IAK founder Alison Weir she told me about this project and it was just at the beginning.

Each entry you click and you get the biography of that person. When you see that, it makes them more human. You see their picture. It's both Israelis and Palestinians.

PALESTINIANS
ISRAELIS
Naim Mahmoud Bedir
December 23, 2022: Naim Mahmoud Theeb Bedir, 28, was shot and killed by Israeli police before dawn in ...
Tadasa Tashume Ben Ma'ada
November 26, 2022: Tadasa Tashume Ben Ma'ada, 50, succumbed to serious wounds in Shaare Zedek Medical Center. He was ...
Ahmad Atef Mustafa Daraghma
December 22, 2022: Ahmad Atef Mustafa
Aryeh Shechopek
November 23, 2022: Aryeh Shechopek, 16, was

It's like a project that is worth working on.

I've done thousands of entries.

See sample page at https://israelpalestinetimeline.org/2022deaths/

I want to quote Father Munther Isaac (from Beit Sahour)
A Christian preacher whose Xmas video went viral.
God is under the rubble in Gaza.
He is with the frightened refugees.
He walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death.
I was able to catch Father Isaac in London on Feb 18:
True spirituality means active participation in loosening the straps of injustice.
This is active solidarity ...
... it's about action.
This is about taking a stance. It's not about making a statement.
Jesus did not say "I was hungry and you prayed and made a statement".
He said "I was hungry and you came to me."
I don't want to ever ever hear you lecture us about equality and human rights.
While you are watching what is happening to us and supporting it.
They say that the west is developed. That it has democracy, human rights.
But when it's people who don't look like the west then it's different.
In Ukraine they praise molotov cocktails thrown at the occupiers.
But when we do it we're labeled terrorists.
Saed, thousands of miles away in the US, is feeling the toll of watching his homeland suffer.
One of the things I hate about the Pacific North-West
Is the huge time difference with my family.
With the IMEMC struggling, Saed continues his work well into the night, reconciling timelines and fighting against the ever rising death toll.

But everybody left the IMEMC. It's very tough for me.
I have one volunteer right now, she's Canadian.
We haven't updated the timeline since Oct 7.
It's tough, especially when there's something like this happening right now.
There are a lot of things happening. I am used to a certain pace.
The health ministry hasn't been able to keep its hospitals running. Everything is destroyed. Gaza is in ruins.
It published a list of names a while back of the 6000 dead. But since then there haven't been any other names.
We literally lost count. I hate to put it this way.
If I click now as I talk to you, the number is 27,947. We need that many names.
We don't know where to start. I don't know how to describe it.
We're literally devastated. I don't know what people are going to do, where they will eat, sleep and drink.
I'm at a loss for words.
Humanity failed the Palestinians.

MY EXPERIENCE BUYING ESIMS FOR GAZA

project organized by @connectinghumanity_

BY MAIA KOBABE

IN FALL 2023, I SAW INSTRUCTIONS ON INSTAGRAM FOR HOW TO PURCHASE AN ESIM CARD & SUBMIT IT TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO SOMEONE IN GAZA.

DOWNLOAD AN ESIM APP → SELECT MIDDLE EAST AS THE REGION → PURCHASE → SCREENSHOT THE QR CODE → DO NOT ACTIVATE → SEND TO GAZAESIMS@GMAIL

I EMAILED AN AIRALO ESIM QR CODE TO GAZAESIMS ON NOV 17 2023.

BY JANUARY 2024, IT HADN'T BEEN ACTIVATED YET. I BOUGHT A SECOND ONE FROM NOMAD & SENT MY NEW QR CODE & RESUBMITTED MY OLD ONE.

BY FEBRUARY NEITHER HAD BEEN ACTIVATED, BUT CONNECTING HUMANITY KEPT POSTING ABOUT NEEDING MORE. I BOUGHT A SECOND NOMAD AND RESUBMITTED ALL OF THEM ON FEBRUARY 15, 2024.

THE NOMAD ESIMS ARE MUCH CHEAPER THAN AIRALO, BUT WHAT I DIDN'T REALIZE IS THAT THEY EXPIRE, EVEN IF THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ACTIVATED. AT THE END OF FEBRUARY I DECIDED TO TRY A THIRD COMPANY, SIMLY. HERE'S A PRICE COMPARISON:

AIRALO: $39 USD FOR 3GB
NEVER EXPIRES

SIMLY: $22 USD FOR 3GB
NEVER EXPIRES

NOMAD: $16 USD FOR 3GB
EXPIRES AFTER 8 WEEKS EVEN IF UNUSED, ONLY OFFERS IN-APP REFUND

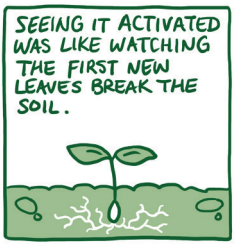
CONNECTING HUMANITY ASKS FOLKS TO WAIT AT LEAST 3 WEEKS BEFORE RESENDING A QR CODE THAT HASN'T BEEN ACTIVATED YET. ON MARCH 7 MIRNA ELHELBAWI POSTED:

> We send EVERY esim we receive. Bear in mind that we are dealing with people at a war zone. They might take it and get killed before activating it, they might take it and their phone gets lost or destroyed. They might take it and search for days for stable internet connection to activate it, and some of them activate it unsuccessfully due to lack of knowledge and the horrific situations they are in.
>
> ~Connecting Gaza

BY EARLY APRIL, MY FIRST NOMAD ESIM EXPIRED UNUSED. I RESUBMITTED MY THREE REMAINING ESIMS.

SUDDENLY, TWO OF MY ESIMS WERE ACTIVATED ON THE SAME DAY!

I BEGAN BUYING TOP-UP PACKAGES IMMEDIATELY.



SADLY, ONLY .07 GB OF DATA WAS EVER USED ON MY NOMAD. IT WAS NEVER USED AGAIN AFTER THAT FIRST DAY.

BUT MY AIRALO HAS BEEN IN CONSTANT USE FOR OVER A MONTH NOW. I CHECK ON IT EVERY DAY.

I WILL NEVER KNOW THE PERSON I AM BUYING DATA FOR AND THEY WILL NEVER KNOW ME. BUT WE ARE CONNECTED BY THE SAME STRINGS OF HOPE AND GRIEF THAT CONNECT US ALL.

ON APRIL 5, 2024 CONNECTING HUMANITY REPORTED THEY HAD SENT MORE THAN

250,000 ESIMS TO GAZA

EQUIVALENT TO APPROXIMATELY

$6.3 MILLION DONATED!

YOU CAN VISIT GAZAESIMS.COM FOR MORE INFO, INSTRUCTIONS, AND DISCOUNTS. HERE ARE MY REFERRAL CODES:

MAIA5367 for $3 off AIRALO
MB772 for $3 off SIMLY
MAIA66GF for $3 off NOMAD

IF YOU NEED MORE INCENTIVE, THE CARTOONIST COOP IS DOING ART REWARDS. VISIT CARTOONIST.COOP/ESIMS4GAZA

Buying an eSIM is easy and can make a very direct impact.
It can also take a lot of patience and could get expensive over time if you commit to keeping the eSIM topped up indefinitely.
MAIA KOBABE

IF AN IMMEDIATE ONE TIME DONATION IS MORE YOUR SPEED, I RECOMMEND OPERATION OLIVE BRANCH AND GAZAFUNDS, TWO PLACES TO FIND GOFUNDMES AIDING PALESTINIAN FAMILIES.

gazafunds.com

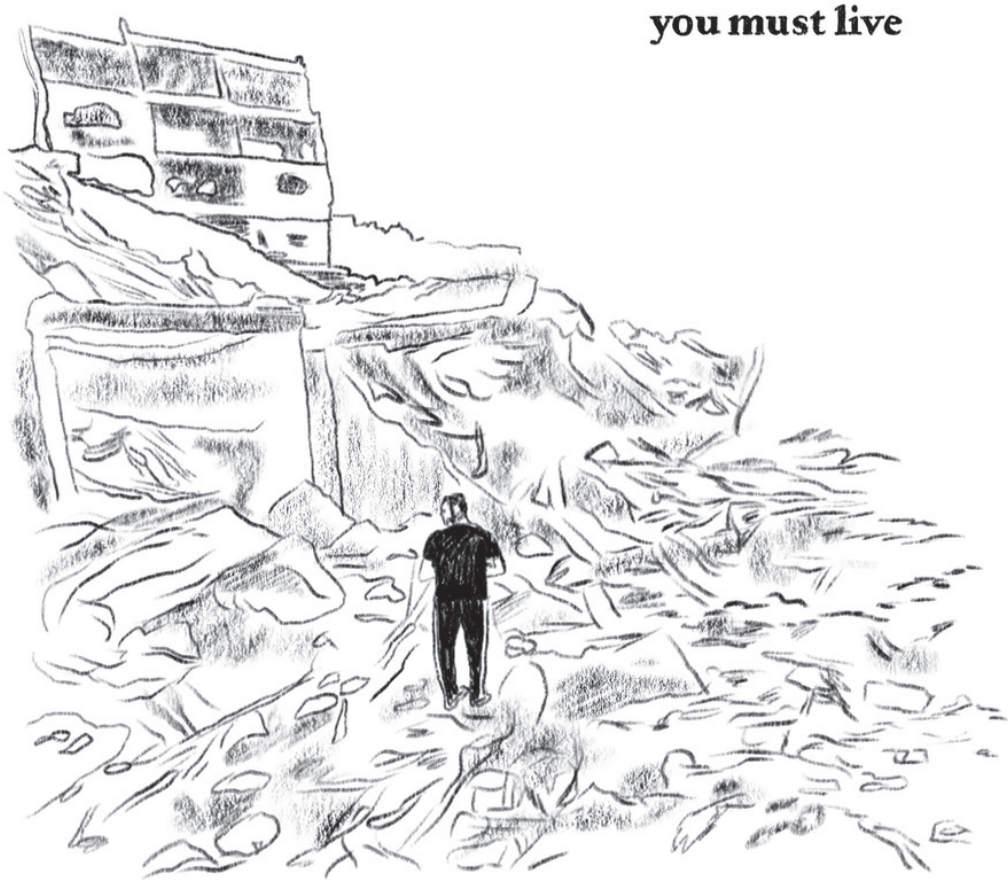
@operationolivebranch on insta
linktr.ee/opolivebranch

@REDGOLDSPARKS

MK 2024

"If I Must Die" by Refaat Alareer

If I must die,
you must live



to tell my story

to sell my things

to buy a piece of cloth
and some strings,

(make it white with a long tail)

so that a child,

somewhere in Gaza

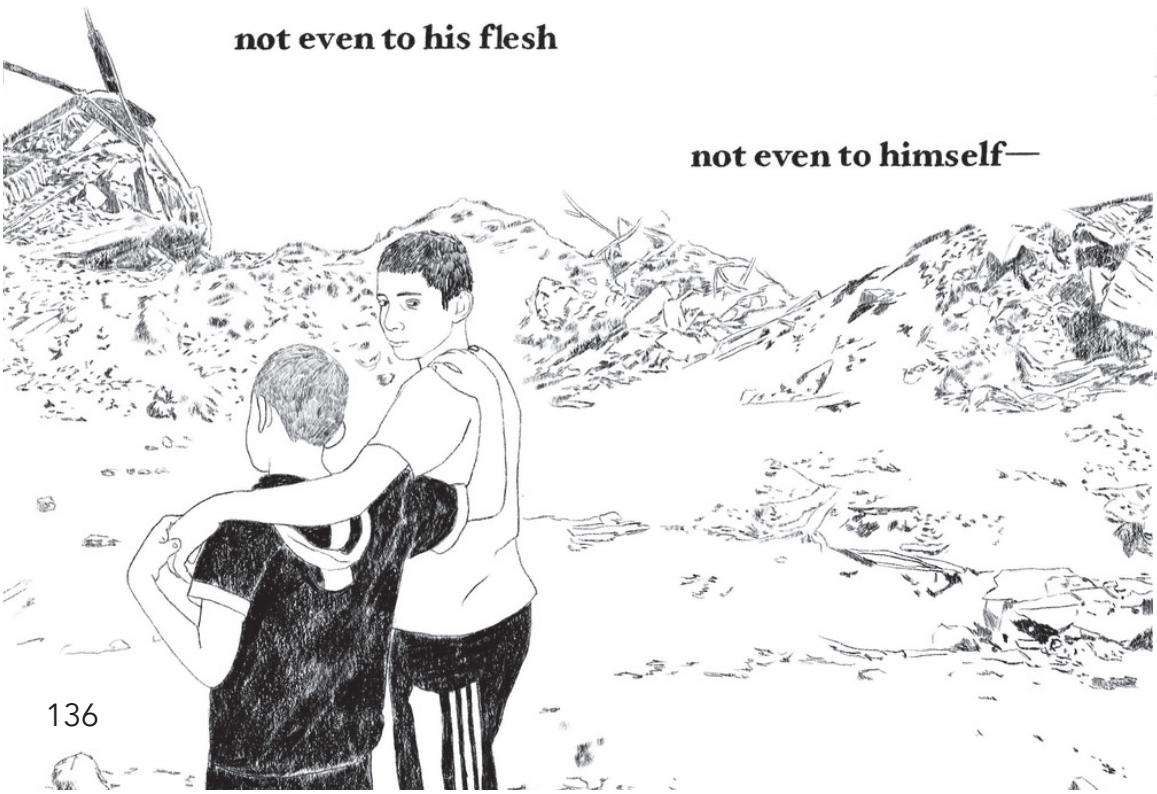
while looking heaven in the eye

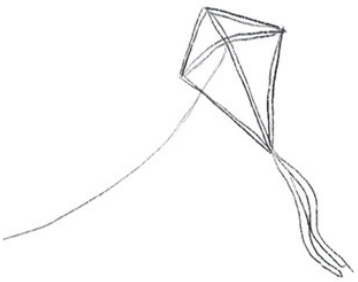
awaiting his dad who left in a blaze—

and bid no one farewell

not even to his flesh

not even to himself—



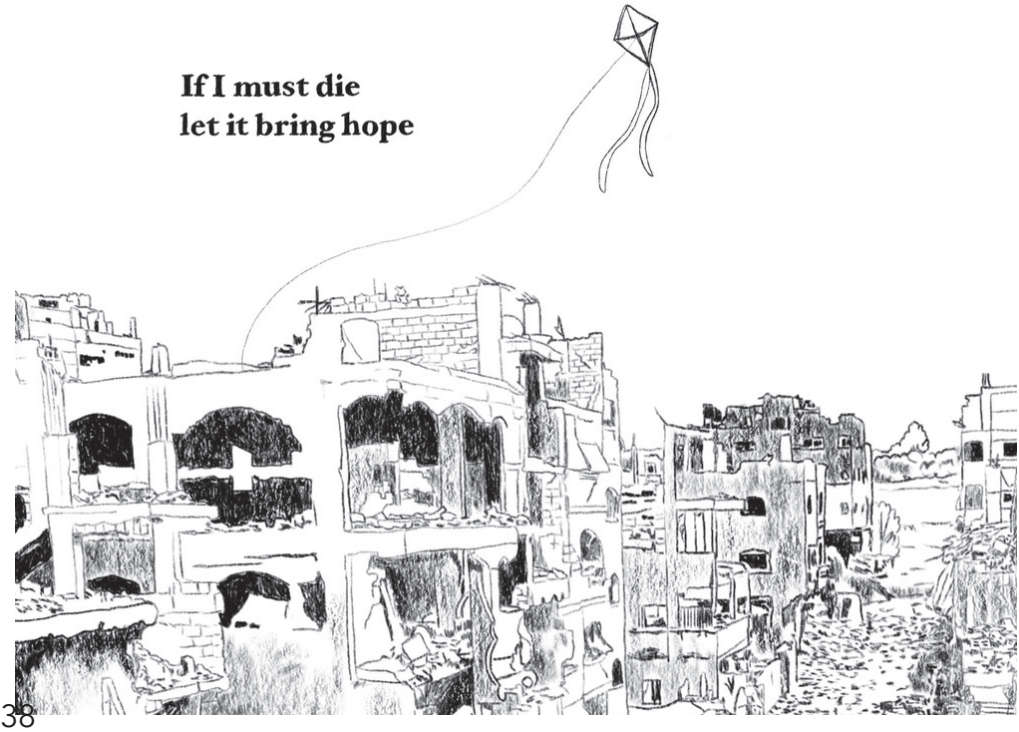


sees the kite, my kite you made, flying up above

and thinks for a moment an angel is there

bringing back love

If I must die
let it bring hope



let it be a tale.

GAZA

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

OVER 3820* CHILDREN KILLED BY BOMBS in GAZA

TONIGT The ISRAELI OCCUPATION COMMITTED A MASSACRE IN A SCHOOL FOR DISPLACED PERSONS IN GAZA

*UPDATE : A YEAR AFTER THE START OF THE GENOCIDE IN GAZA, THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN KILLED BY ISRAEL HAS NOW SURPASSED 11,000, WHILE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN STILL TRAPPED UNDER THE RUBBLE REMAINS UNKNOWN.

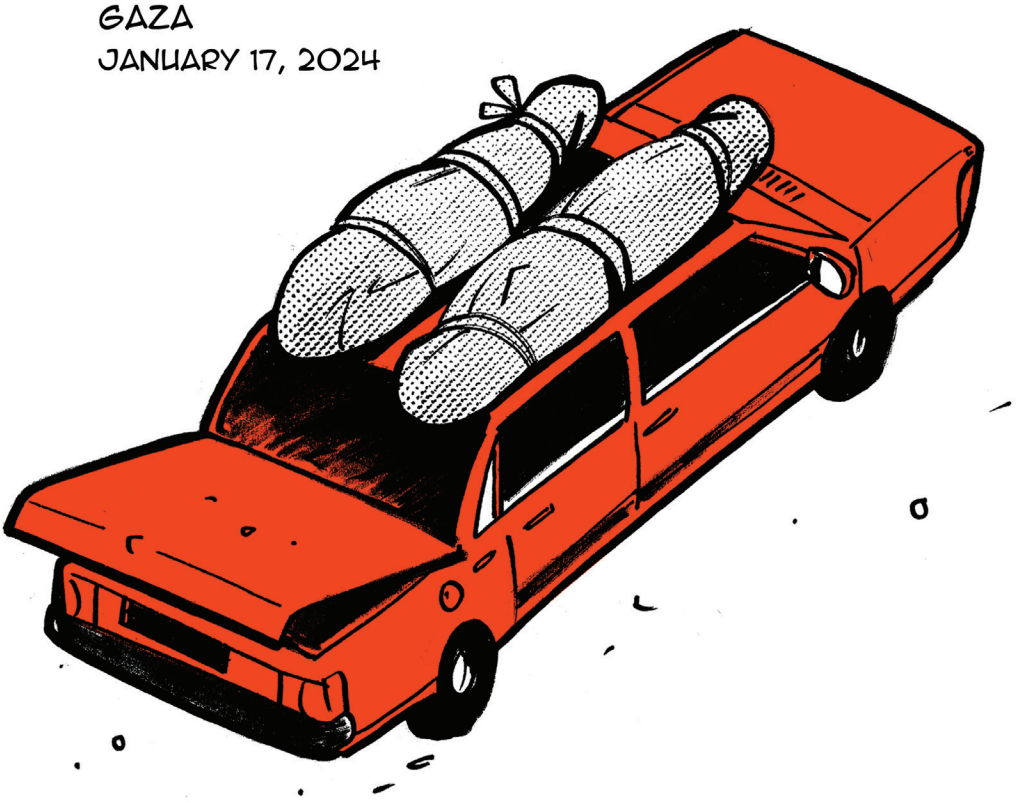
GAZA
NOVEMBER 4, 2023

this is not a bust

THIS IS WHAT REMAINS
OF A SMALL CHILD'S BODY

ISRAELI SOLDIRERS HAVE FUN EATING CHIPS WHILE TORTURING PALESTINIANS IN A HOUSE IN GAZA

GAZA
JANUARY 17, 2024



NO MORE AMBULANCES IN GAZA, FAMILIES CARRY THEIR DEAD ON THE ROOF OF THEIR OLD CAR

WHAT MAKES UP A BABY'S CARRIAGE IN GAZA!
STONES TO HOLD THE TRAPAULIN
A TRAPAULIN TO PREVENT WATER FROM WETTING THE BOX
BOMBING AS A NURSY RHYME
A WOODEN BOX OF SPARE PARTS

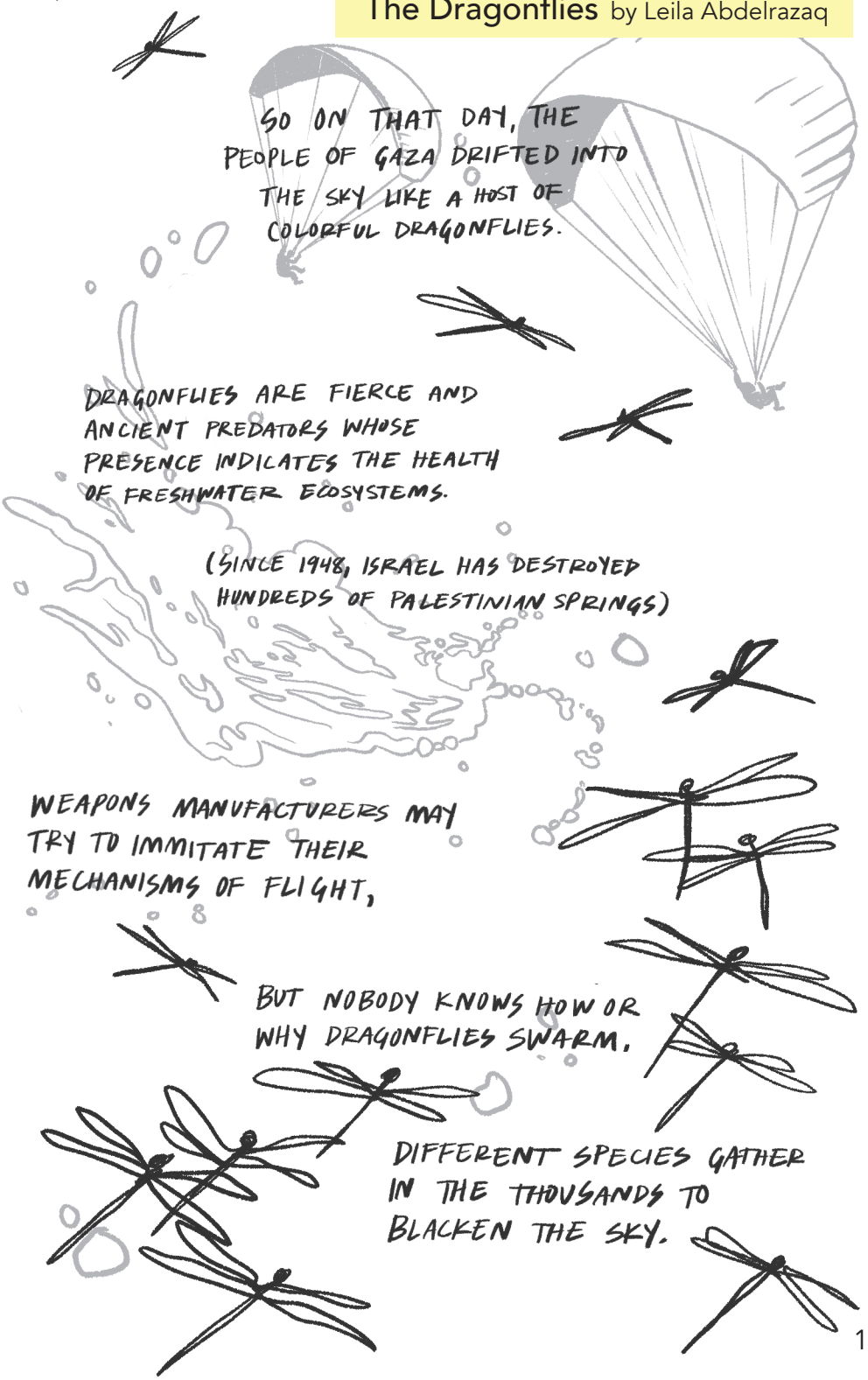
GAZA MARCH 11, 2024

TODAY MARKS THE START OF RAMADAN, THE MONTH OF FASTING!
PALESTINIAN FAMILIES ARE DEPRIVED OF FOOD.
21 CHILDREN DIED OF HUNGER ON MONDAY.

Shared Humanity by Nicki Newell

First published in *Mizna*, 2024

The Dragonflies by Leila Abdelrazaq


SO ON THAT DAY, THE PEOPLE OF GAZA DRIFTED INTO THE SKY LIKE A HOST OF COLORFUL DRAGONFLIES.
DRAGONFLIES ARE FIERCE AND ANCIENT PREDATORS WHOSE PRESENCE INDICATES THE HEALTH OF FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS.
(SINCE 1948, ISRAEL HAS DESTROYED HUNDREDS OF PALESTINIAN SPRINGS)
WEAPONS MANUFACTURERS MAY TRY TO IMMITATE THEIR MECHANISMS OF FLIGHT,
BUT NOBODY KNOWS HOW OR WHY DRAGONFLIES SWARM.
DIFFERENT SPECIES GATHER IN THE THOUSANDS TO BLACKEN THE SKY.

SO ON THAT DAY,
THE SOULS OF THE MARTYRS
DRIFTED UP INTO THE
GAZAN SKY.
AND THE WALLS
OF THE PRISONS
COLLAPSED
AND WE WERE
REMINDED:
THE EARTH ALWAYS
RETURNS TO HERSELF
THAT WHICH BELONGS
TO HER.

The Tower by Anuj Shrestha

Bird of Prey by Anuj Shrestha

Not In Our Name by Rotem Anna Diamant

AGAINST THE FEW RICH PROFITING FROM THE MARGINALIZED, DISPLACED, MURDERED, OR OTHER MANY.
TOWARDS A DEEPER EMPATHY FOR CONTEXT & PERSONAL HISTORIES.
AGAINST FASCIST GOVERNMENTS AND CAPITALISTIC VESTED FOREIGN INTERESTS.
AGAINST BRAINWASHING AN ARMY OF CHILDREN, & TEENS TO FIGHT FOR ANY ETHNONATIONALIST, COLONIALIST STATE.
CEASEFIRE
ANTI-ZIONISM ≠ ANTI-SEMITISM
FOR PALESTINIANS, JEWS, & ANYONE ELSE LIVING ON THE LAND OR IN THE DIASPORA. FOR EQUITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND DIGNITY FOR ALL.
FOR A CEASEFIRE, FOR PEACE, FOR AMENDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY. FOR THE MEMORY OF ALL MURDERED CIVILIANS, THE LAND, AND THE ANIMALS.
FOR RECOGNIZING WORDS MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE. THE SAME WORD MAY BE USED AS A WEAPON OR WORN AS A SHIELD. THE SAME WORD MAY MEAN HOPE OR BE USED TO SPREAD FEAR AMONGST OTHERS.
UNITE FOR PALESTINE
END THE GENOCIDE
NOT IN OUR NAME
END THE GENOCIDE
FOR UNDERSTANDING WHAT OUR WORDS DO, AND HOW THEY ARE USED BY THOSE IN POWER TO MANIPULATE & ALIENATE US FROM EACH OTHER.

Are You OK Hanan? by Rachel Deutsch

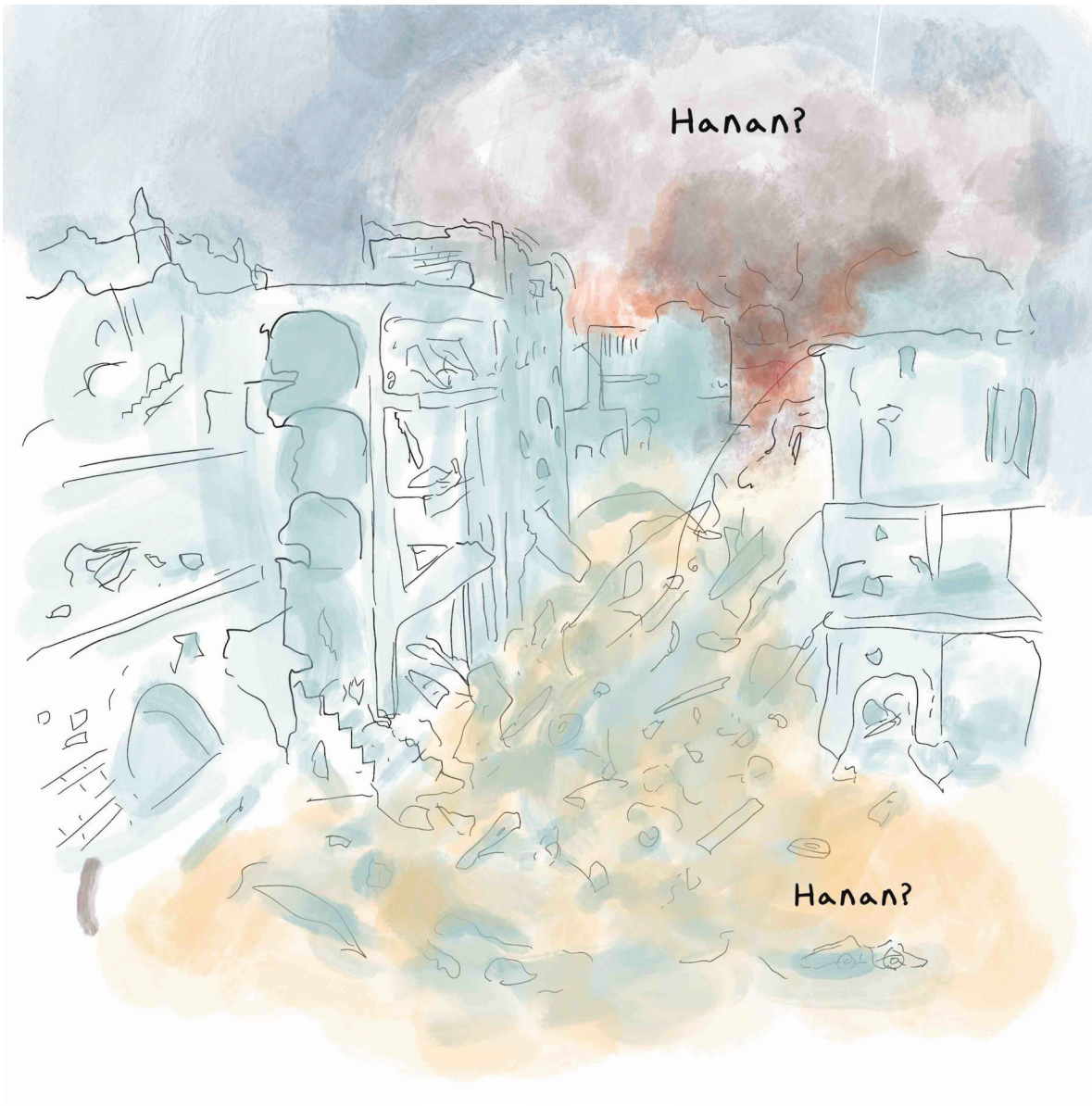
In March I started a fundraiser for Hanan, a medical worker in Gaza, to be able to flee to Egypt. We began a daily text exchange. Here are some of them.

Hanan?
Hanan? Are you ok?
Hanan?

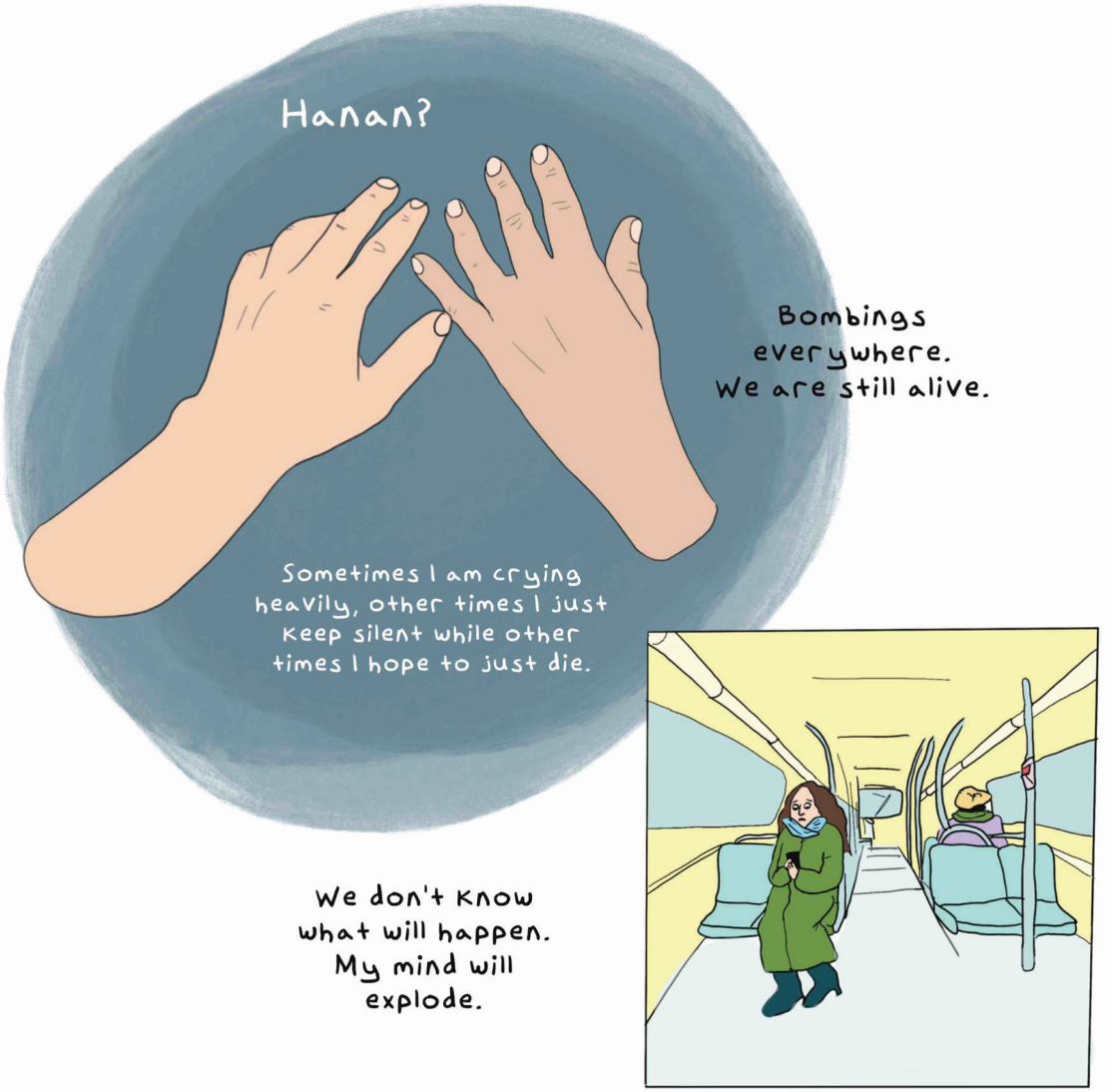
Hanan?
Hi dear.
Can I just write here sometimes what I am feeling, no need to respond at all. If I write that will make me feel a little bit better and not think badly.
Of course, write it here.

Iyad and I got married and we were very happy because our marriage was based on a love story that lasted two years. We decided to wait for a year after getting married without having children in order to enjoy our new life. After that, we decided to have children, but this did not happen for another three years.
The result of all of this is five years of waiting for a child.
He's so cute! And happy!
Omar

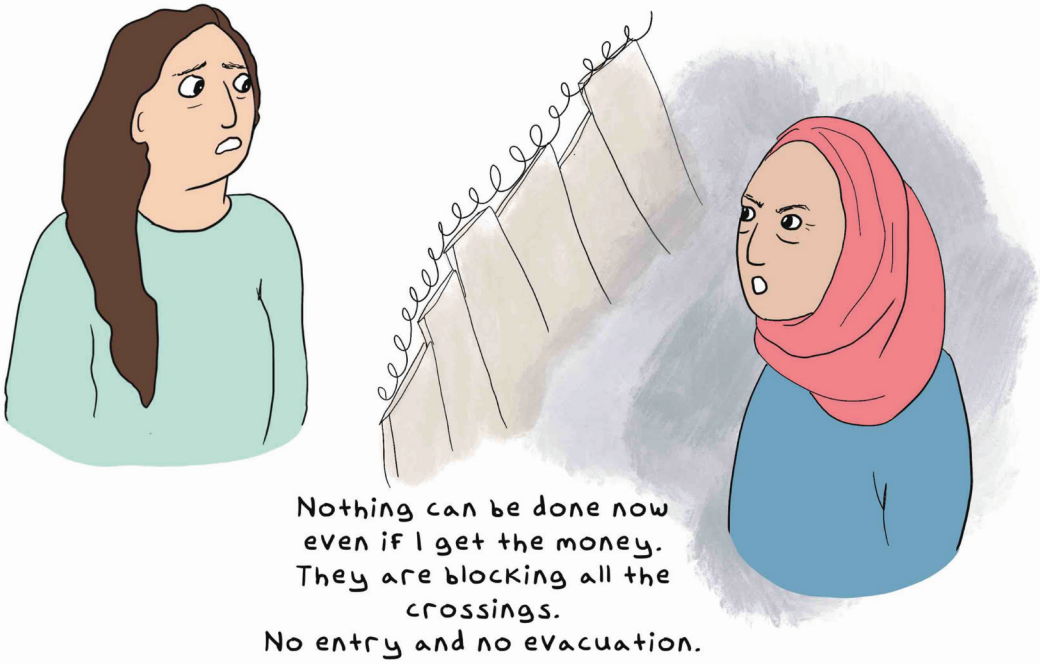
One day I hope to take Iyad and Omar to see the snow.
I was running and playing in the snow like a child.
Here's a picture of me in Istanbul with snow.


Hanan?
Hanan?

Hanan?
Are you ok?
you are responsible for none of this.
Sometimes I feel regret for having a child. Because I am responsible for this.
If something bad happens to him I will never forgive myself.


Hanan?
Bombings everywhere. We are still alive.
Sometimes I am crying heavily, other times I just keep silent while other times I hope to just die.
We don't know what will happen. My mind will explode.

The rest of your money from the fundraiser is sitting in my account. I wish I could get it to you. I feel so helpless.

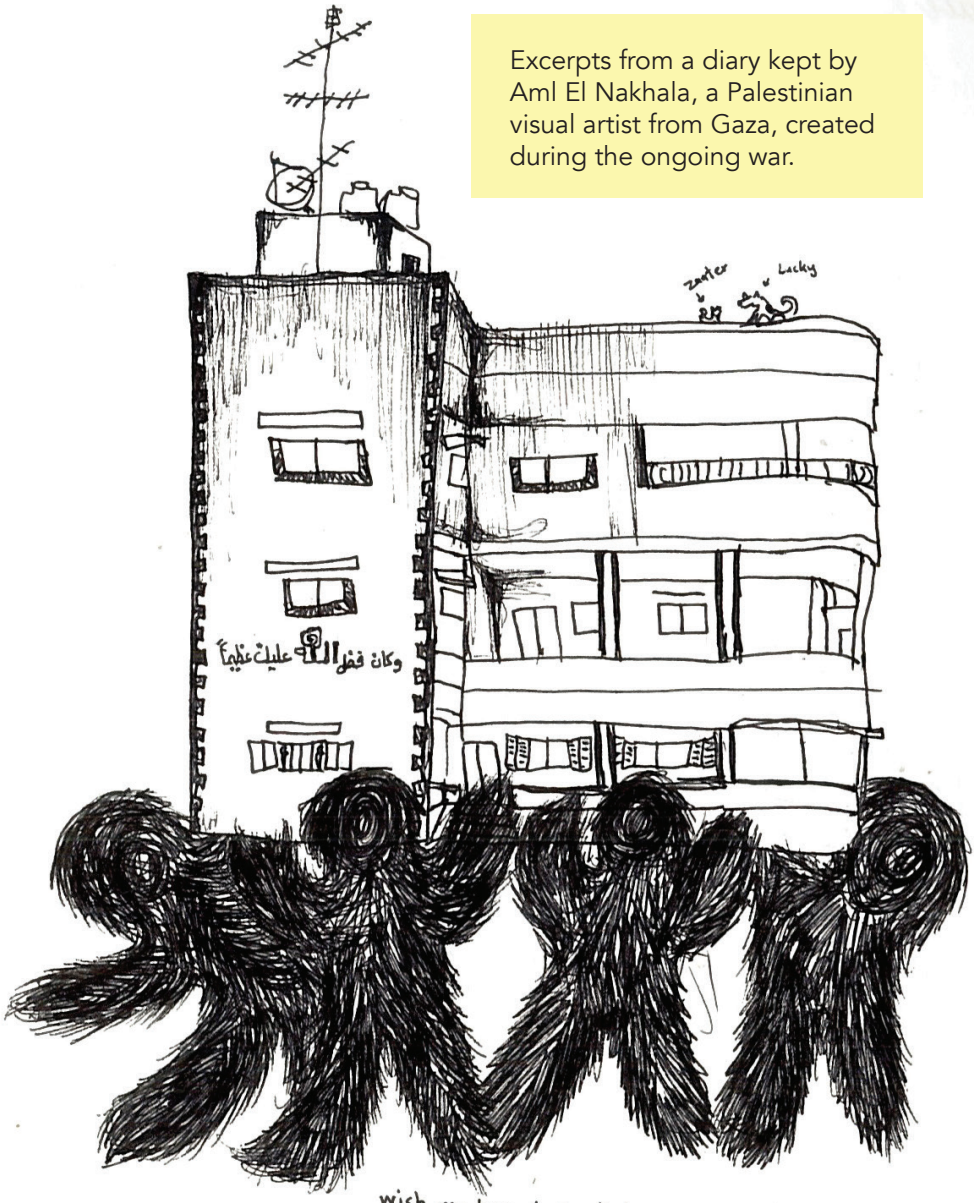


Nothing can be done now even if I get the money. They are blocking all the crossings. No entry and no evacuation.

Keep living.
I will.
Until the last breaths.

Diary of a Human Animal by Aml El Nakhala

Excerpts from a diary kept by Aml El Nakhala, a Palestinian visual artist from Gaza, created during the ongoing war.

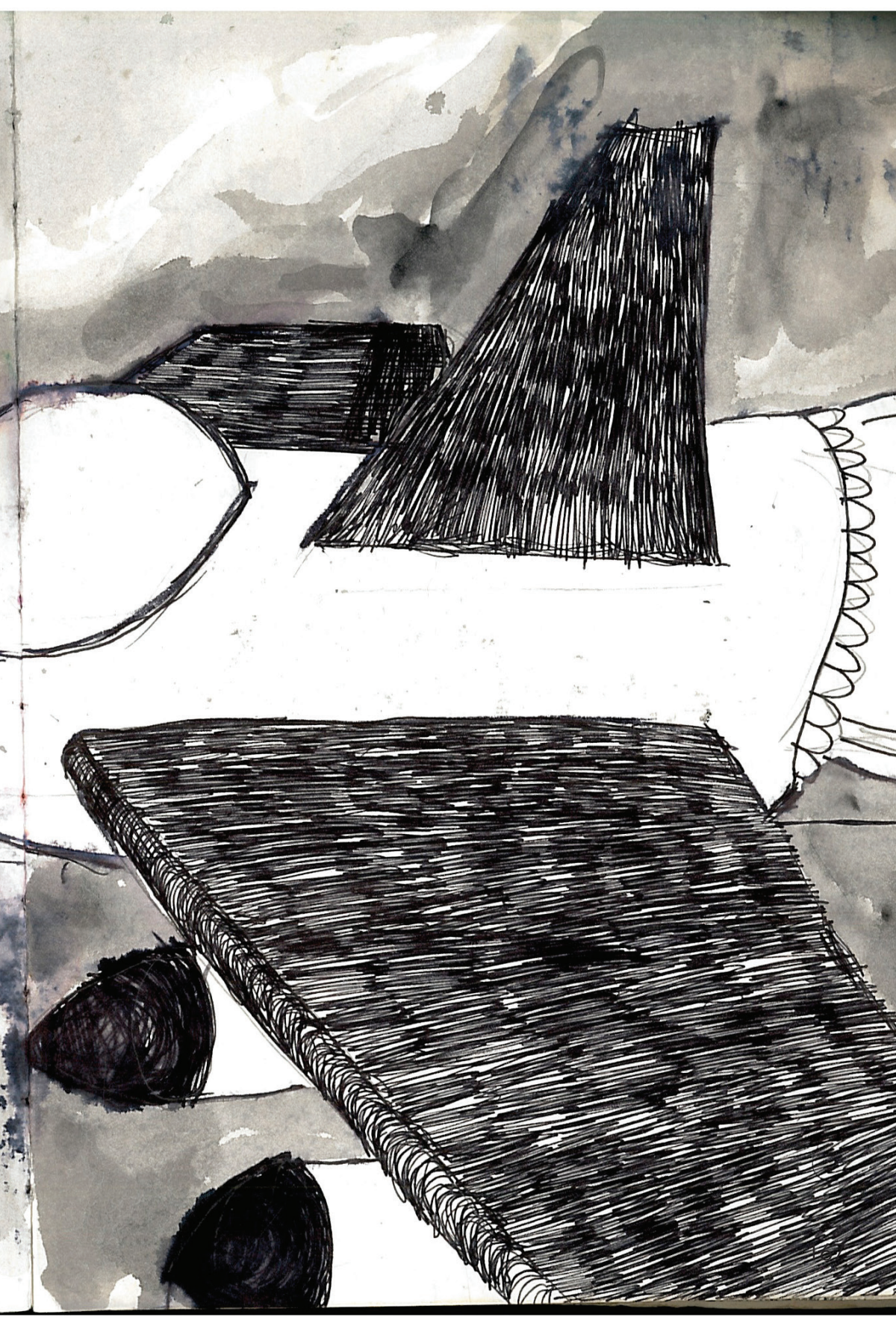

Zaatar
Lucky
وكان فضل الله عليك عظيماً
wish my house to be that easy to evacuate
wish my house could be carried as
a whole in one bag

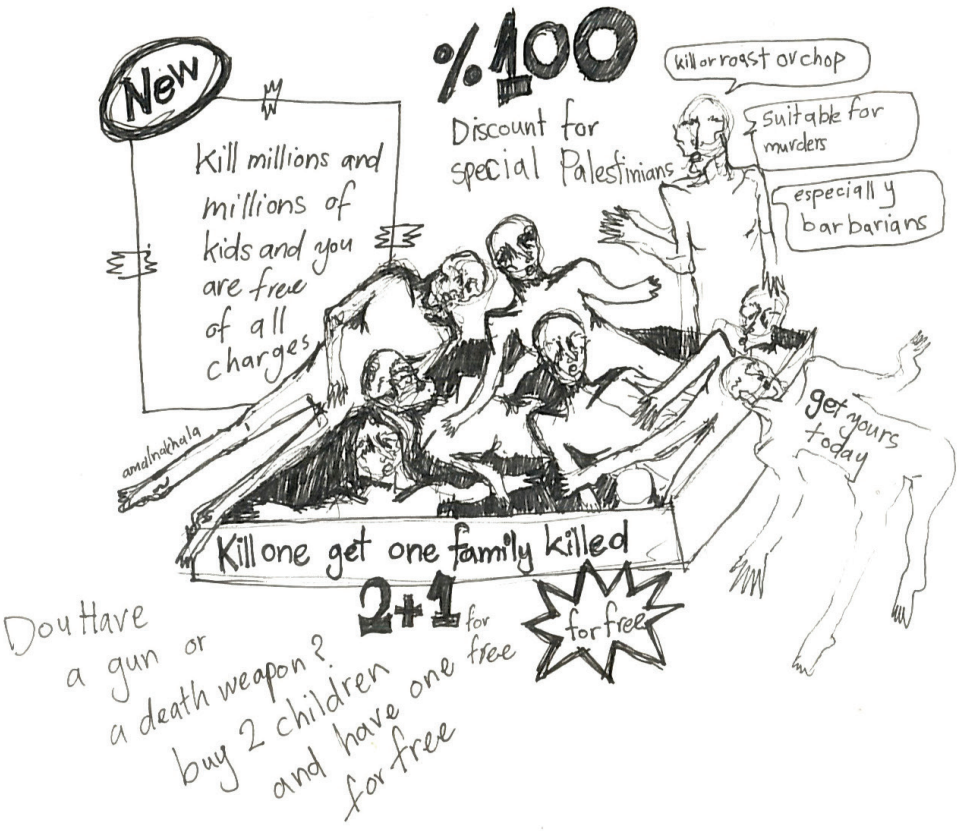
Nov. 2023

Today I've
heard that the
street I live in
was severly bombed
by a series of fire bo
house has been destroyed
I don't know
among them
or not
e sure for on
that three houses were bombed behind
ouse64 right in the corner of our streets
n other one in the same area

31 OCT 2022
afraid of not having a house anymore

31.Oct.2023
How We Will Survive this night?
Not Sure we will still Alive though




New
Kill millions and millions of kids and you are free of all charges
%100
Discount for special Palestinians
kill or roast or chop
suitable for murders
especially barbarians
get yours today
amalnakhala
Kill one get one family killed
2+1 for
for free
Dou Have a gun or a death weapon? buy 2 children and have one free for free

32 Days. 7 Nov. 2023

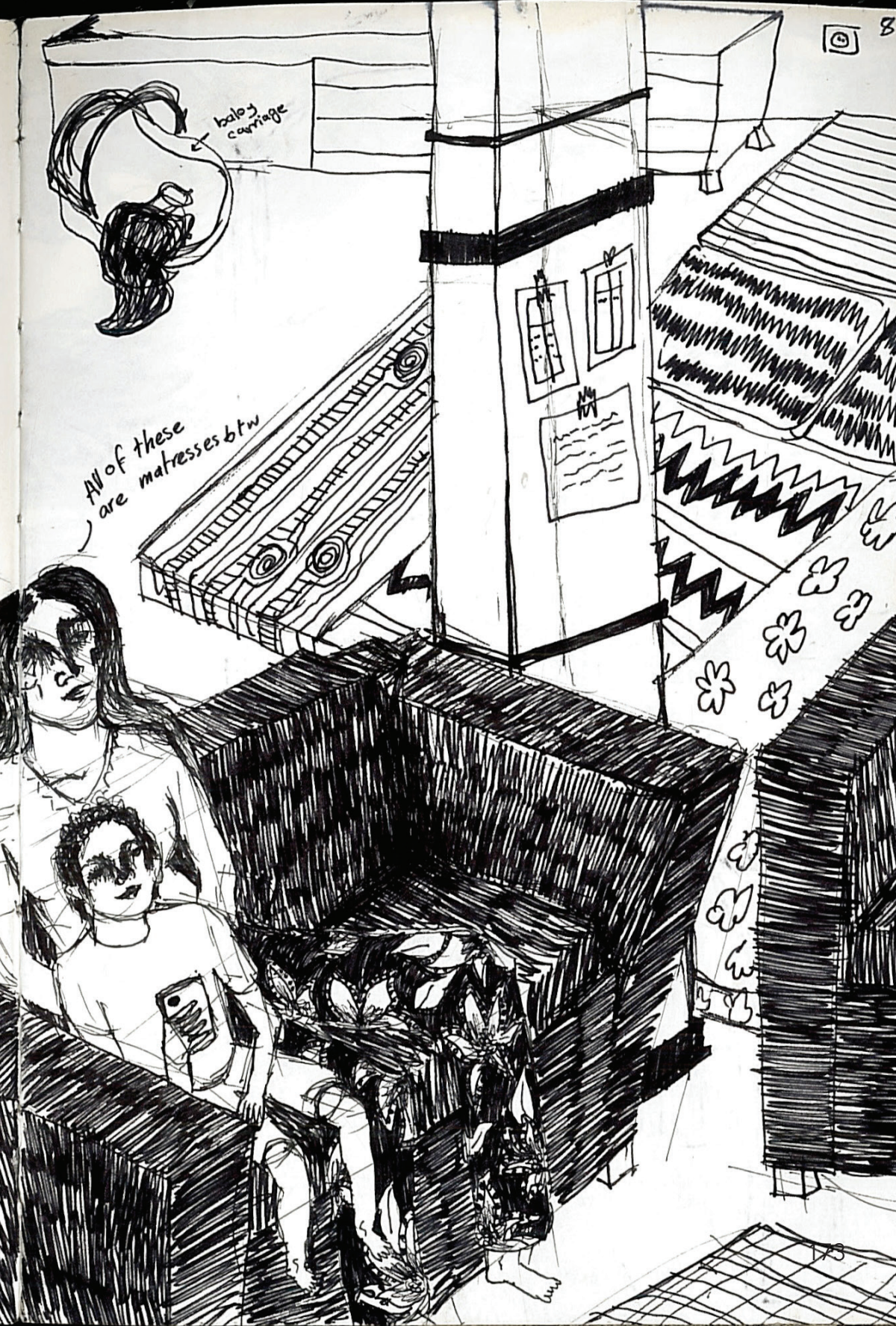
Then, What will happen to Gazaens after war? , Where would they Go?

amental hospital I guess?.

30
Days
of
waiting
2023
Nov
5

for nothing

وين بنطلون سفنبلا
وين أحلام أصل


baby carriage
All of these are matresses btw

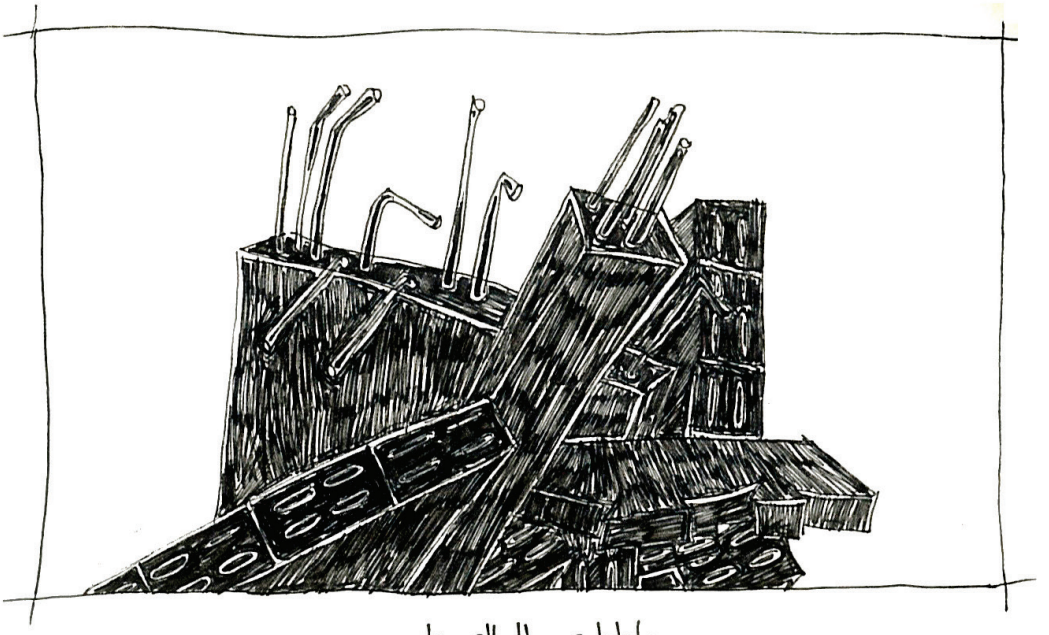
Enta Ya Hmar
get back to the evacuation
corridor!!
or
chop you
to pieces
or
we would
kill you
You Damn
Donkey

Daxs

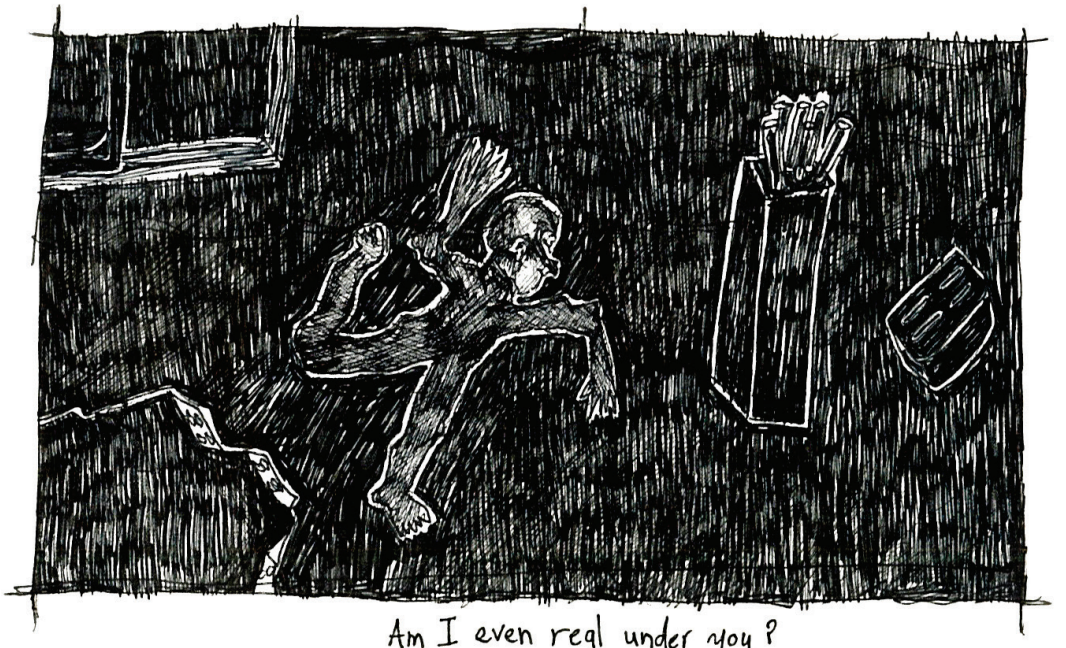
Dec 2023

to all of my far gone true feelings

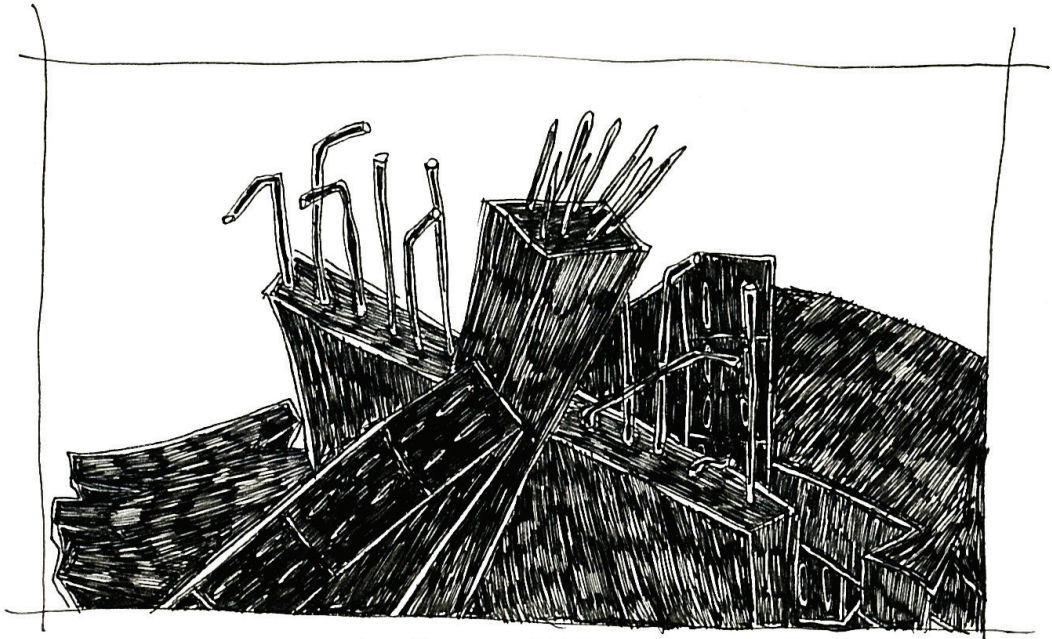
I don't know what I will do with you?



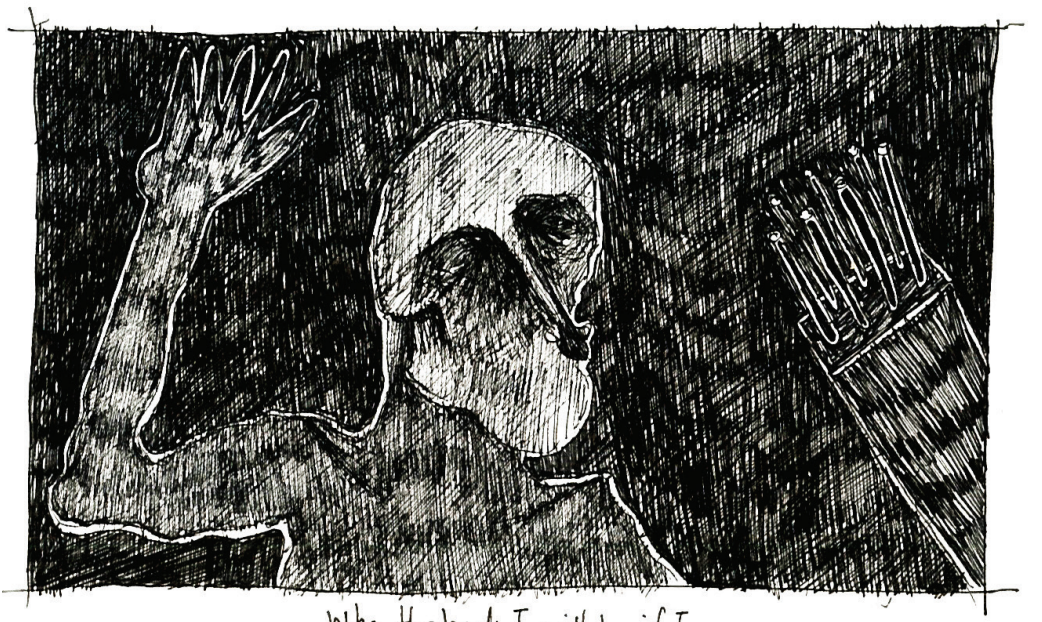
to all the rubble



Am I even real under you?

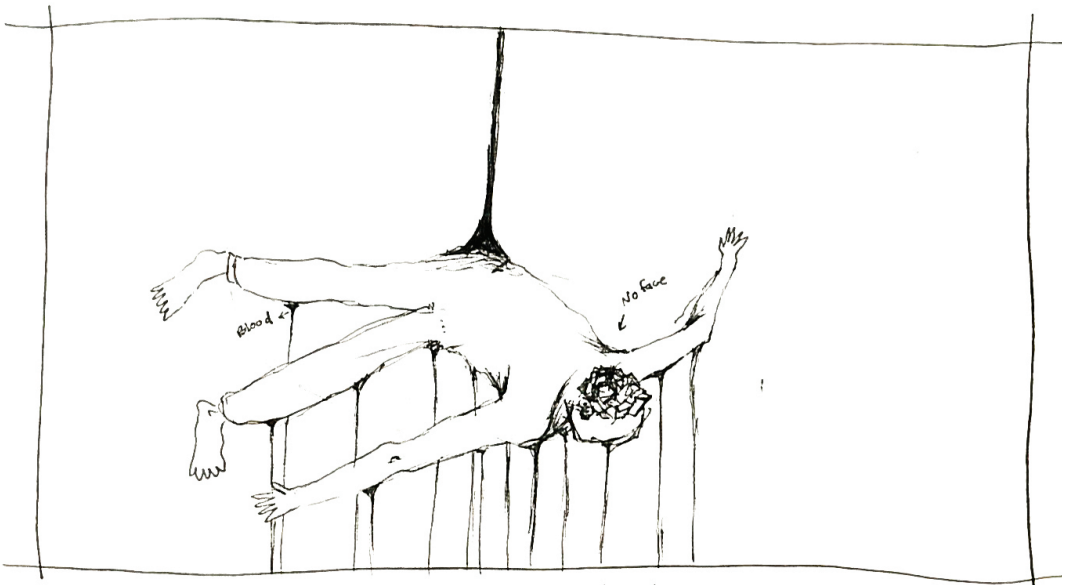


to all the rubble



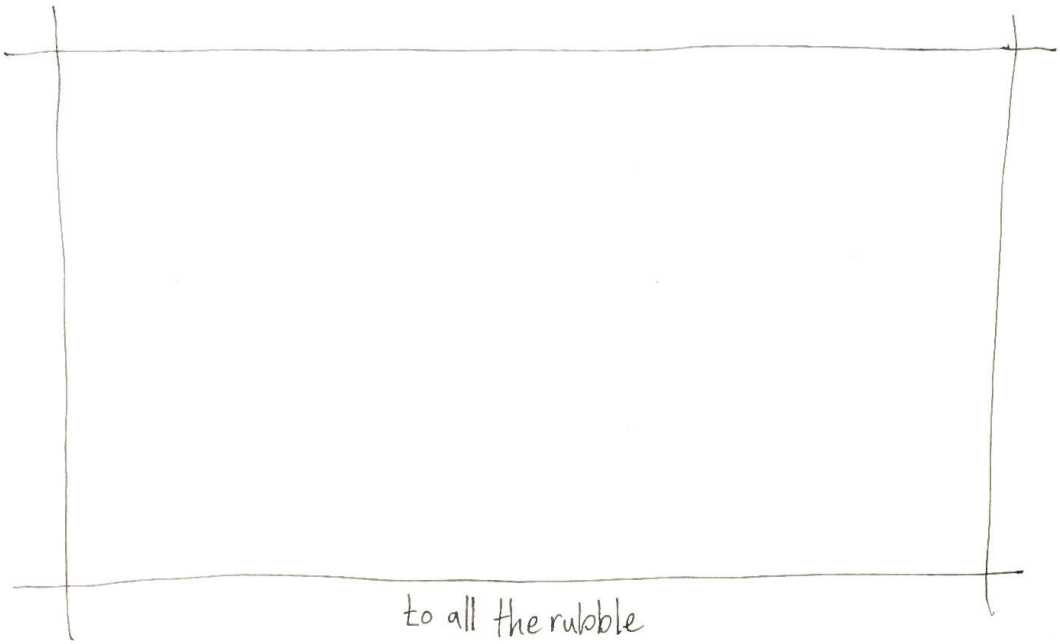
Who the heck I will be if I was under?

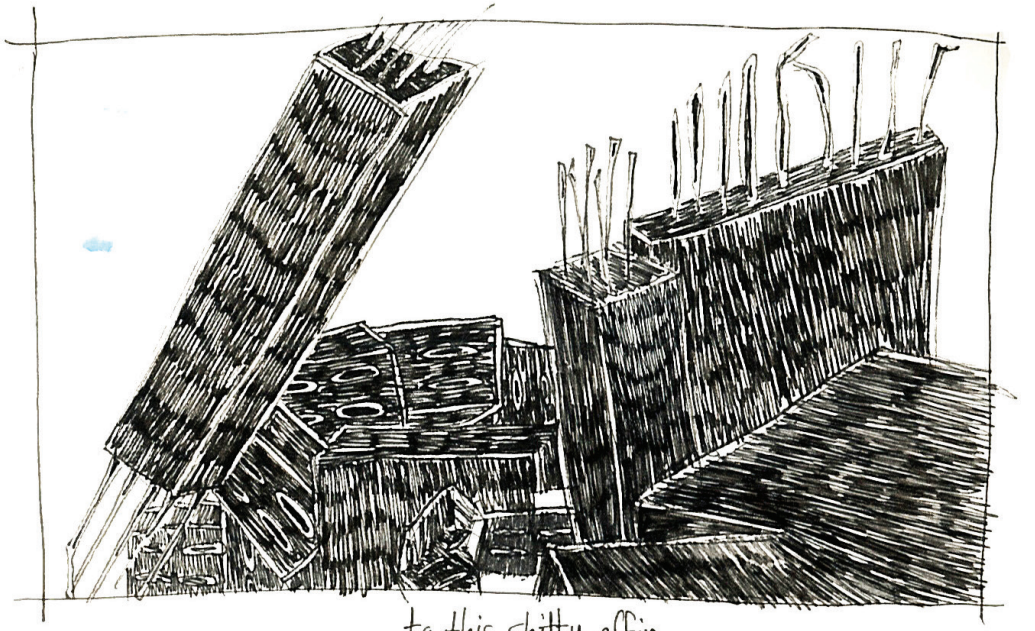
to all the rubble



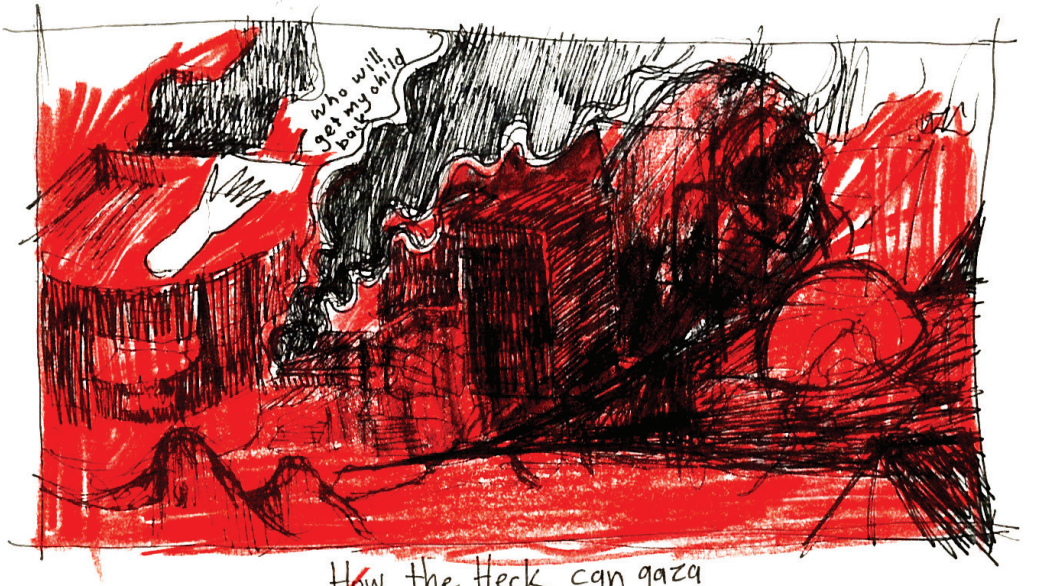
Do I have any sort of identity
if I was crushed in?

to all the rubble
How the heck I would teach people
"Life"
if kids are screaming to get their
Life saved while they are
under you



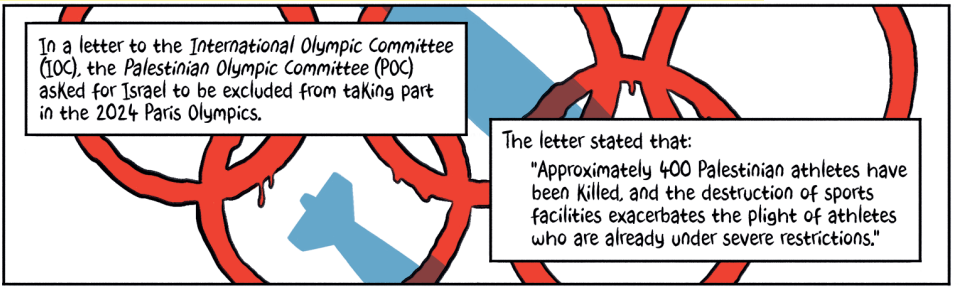


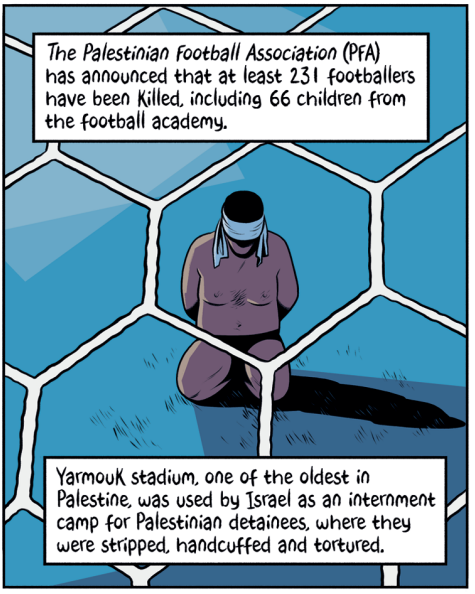
to this shitty effin rubble



~~How~~ when the Heck can gaza get rid of you?

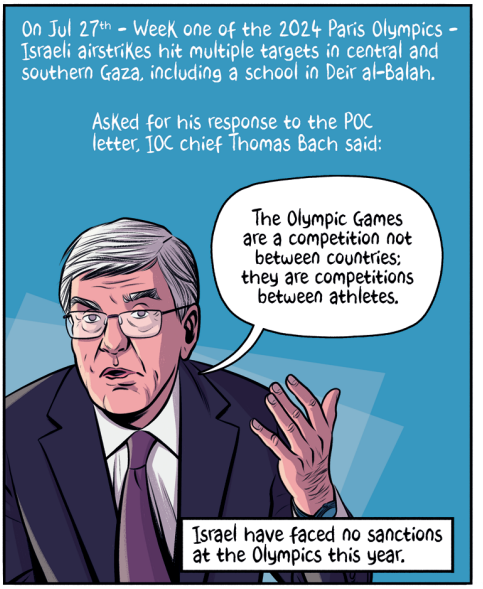
Palestine at the Olympics by Tom Humberstone

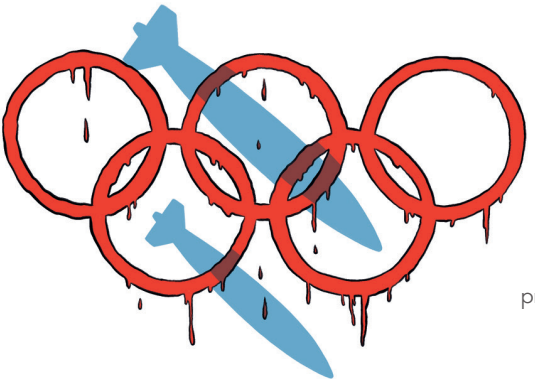

In a letter to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Palestinian Olympic Committee (POC) asked for Israel to be excluded from taking part in the 2024 Paris Olympics.
The letter stated that:
"Approximately 400 Palestinian athletes have been killed, and the destruction of sports facilities exacerbates the plight of athletes who are already under severe restrictions."


The Palestinian Football Association (PFA) has announced that at least 231 footballers have been killed, including 66 children from the football academy.
Yarmouk stadium, one of the oldest in Palestine, was used by Israel as an internment camp for Palestinian detainees, where they were stripped, handcuffed and tortured.

Mohammed Barakat, "The Legend of Khan Younis", was just one footballer to die in an Israeli airstrike.
In his final video message he said:
Finally, my children, my beloved – I entrust you to God.
This is where I end.

The Olympic Truce (or Ekecheiria) is an Ancient Greek tradition which called for participating nations to allow safe passage for every athlete and spectator to the games.
In 2022, the IOC imposed sanctions on Russia and Belarus for violating the terms of the Olympic Truce with the invasion of Ukraine.

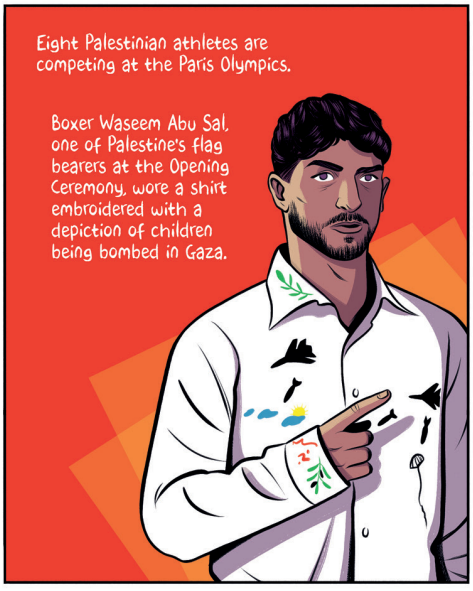

On Jul 27th – Week one of the 2024 Paris Olympics – Israeli airstrikes hit multiple targets in central and southern Gaza, including a school in Deir al-Balah.
Asked for his response to the POC letter, IOC chief Thomas Bach said:
The Olympic Games are a competition not between countries; they are competitions between athletes.
Israel have faced no sanctions at the Olympics this year.



This piece was commissioned by a major American newspaper, then pulled after the vetting team concluded the cartoonist had a conflict of interest due to attending pro-Palestine marches.

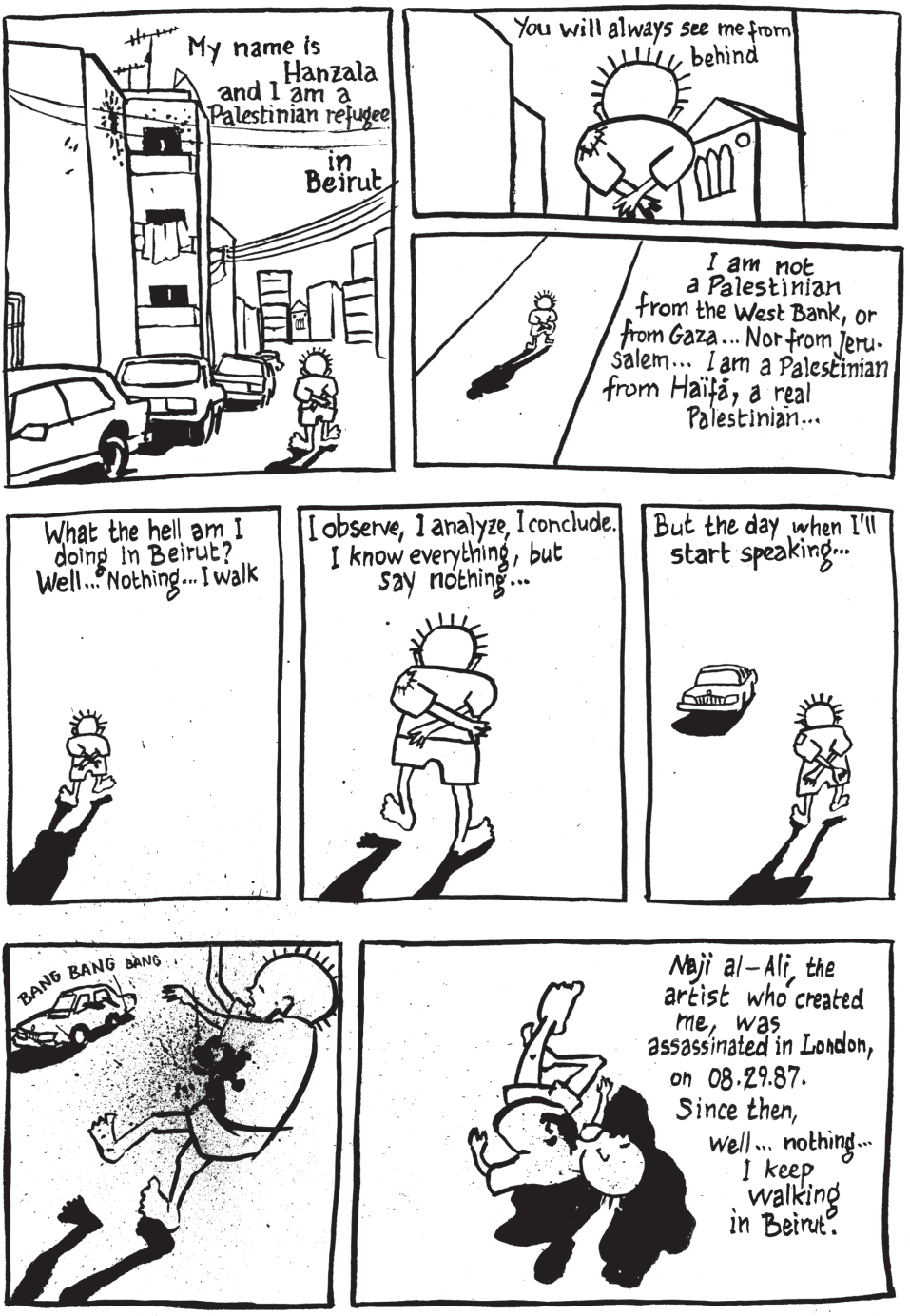
A video recently went viral after a football match between Mali and Israel.
In it, a Brazilian spectator's analysis of the game was interrupted by an Israeli fan repeatedly demanding:
NO POLITICS HERE!
FREE FREE PALESTINE!
The spectator eventually responded by defiantly chanting:

Palestin
Surviving athletes in Gaza have struggled to compete due to the abhorrent conditions.
Many face illness and starvation on a daily basis.
Previous Olympian and weightlifter, Mohammed Hamada lost 20kg and incurred a knee injury.
He failed to qualify.


Eight Palestinian athletes are competing at the Paris Olympics.
Boxer Waseem Abu Sal, one of Palestine's flag bearers at the Opening Ceremony, wore a shirt embroidered with a depiction of children being bombed in Gaza.

Palestinian swimmer Yazan Al Bawwab spoke to the press after competing in the 100m backstroke heats:
A lot of people don't want us here, don't want to see our flag, hear my country's name. But I'm here.
I'm here for those who are starving, for the children who are being killed, not to talk about my swimming.
Imagine if it was your country.

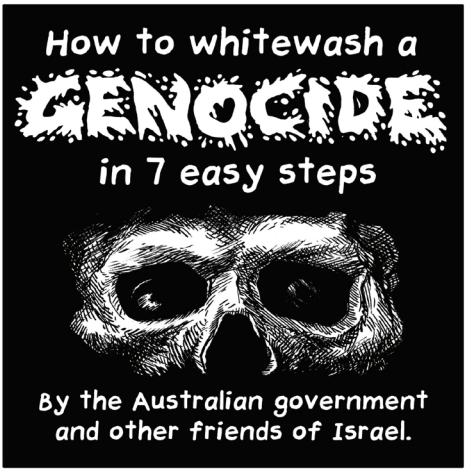
Excerpt from *Beirut* by Barrack Zailaa Rima

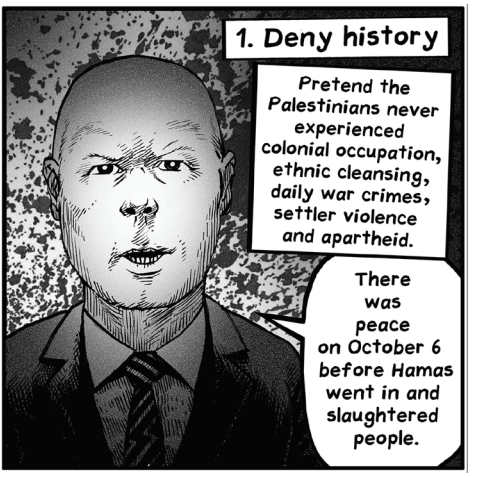

My name is Hanzala and I am a Palestinian refugee in Beirut
You will always see me from behind
I am not a Palestinian from the West Bank, or from Gaza... Nor from Jerusalem... I am a Palestinian from Haïfa, a real Palestinian...
What the hell am I doing in Beirut? Well... Nothing... I walk
I observe, I analyze, I conclude. I know everything, but say nothing...
But the day when I'll start speaking...
BANG BANG BANG
Naji al-Ali, the artist who created me, was assassinated in London, on 08.29.87. Since then, well... nothing... I keep walking in Beirut.

Originally published in French by Alifbata, 2017
English edition: Invisible Publishing, 2024
Translation by Carla Calargé and Alexandra Gueydan-Turek

Mothers by Sammy Glavina

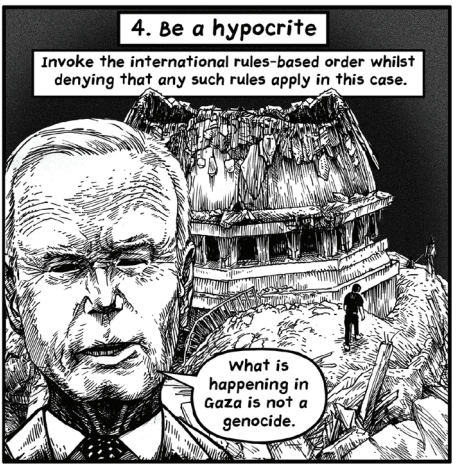
How to Whitewash a Genocide by Safdar Ahmed

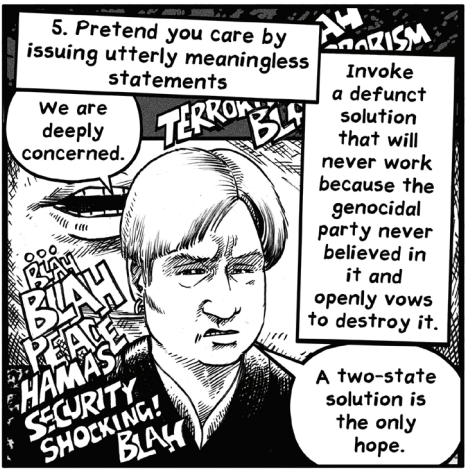


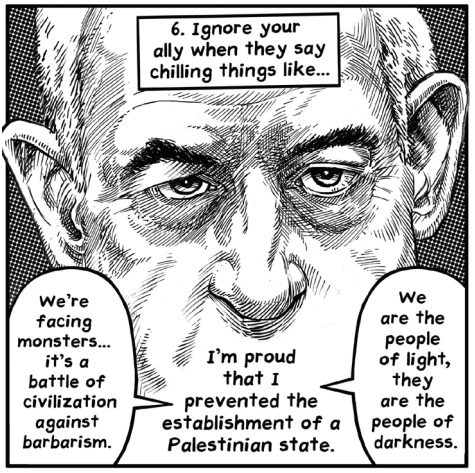

1. Deny history
Pretend the Palestinians never experienced colonial occupation, ethnic cleansing, daily war crimes, settler violence and apartheid.
There was peace on October 6 before Hamas went in and slaughtered people.

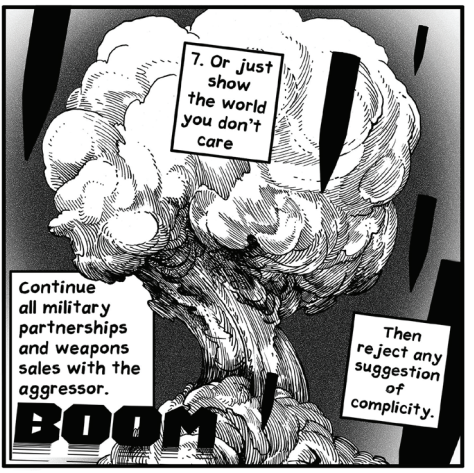
2. Dehumanise the victim
Believe them...
These kids are the terrorists of tomorrow!
When they call Palestinians 'human animals'.

3. Practice cancel culture
Smear the people who want an end to genocide by painting them as the real racists.
FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA PALESTINE WILL BE FREE!
BDS
UNIONS FOR PALESTINE
JEWS FOR PALESTINE
That statement could translate into violence in the community!
There is no place for antisemitism.

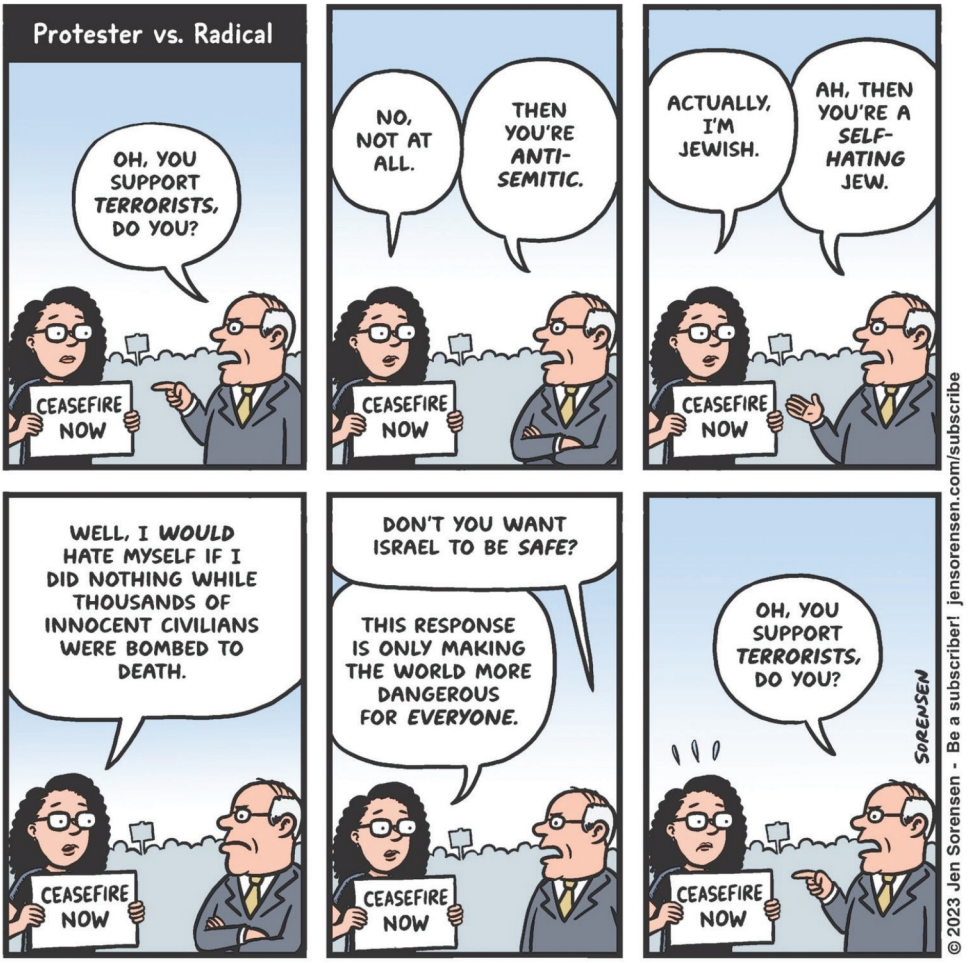

4. Be a hypocrite
Invoke the international rules-based order whilst denying that any such rules apply in this case.
What is happening in Gaza is not a genocide.


5. Pretend you care by issuing utterly meaningless statements
We are deeply concerned.
BLAH BLAH PEACE HAMAS SECURITY SHOCKING! BLAH
Invoke a defunct solution that will never work because the genocidal party never believed in it and openly vows to destroy it.
A two-state solution is the only hope.


6. Ignore your ally when they say chilling things like...
We're facing monsters... it's a battle of civilization against barbarism.
I'm proud that I prevented the establishment of a Palestinian state.
We are the people of light, they are the people of darkness.


7. Or just show the world you don't care
Continue all military partnerships and weapons sales with the aggressor.
Then reject any suggestion of complicity.
BOOM

Protester vs. Radical by Jen Sorensen


Protester vs. Radical
OH, YOU SUPPORT TERRORISTS, DO YOU?
CEASEFIRE NOW
NO, NOT AT ALL.
THEN YOU'RE ANTI-SEMITIC.
CEASEFIRE NOW
ACTUALLY, I'M JEWISH.
AH, THEN YOU'RE A SELF-HATING JEW.
CEASEFIRE NOW
WELL, I WOULD HATE MYSELF IF I DID NOTHING WHILE THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS WERE BOMBED TO DEATH.
CEASEFIRE NOW
DON'T YOU WANT ISRAEL TO BE SAFE?
THIS RESPONSE IS ONLY MAKING THE WORLD MORE DANGEROUS FOR EVERYONE.
CEASEFIRE NOW
OH, YOU SUPPORT TERRORISTS, DO YOU?
SORENSEN
CEASEFIRE NOW
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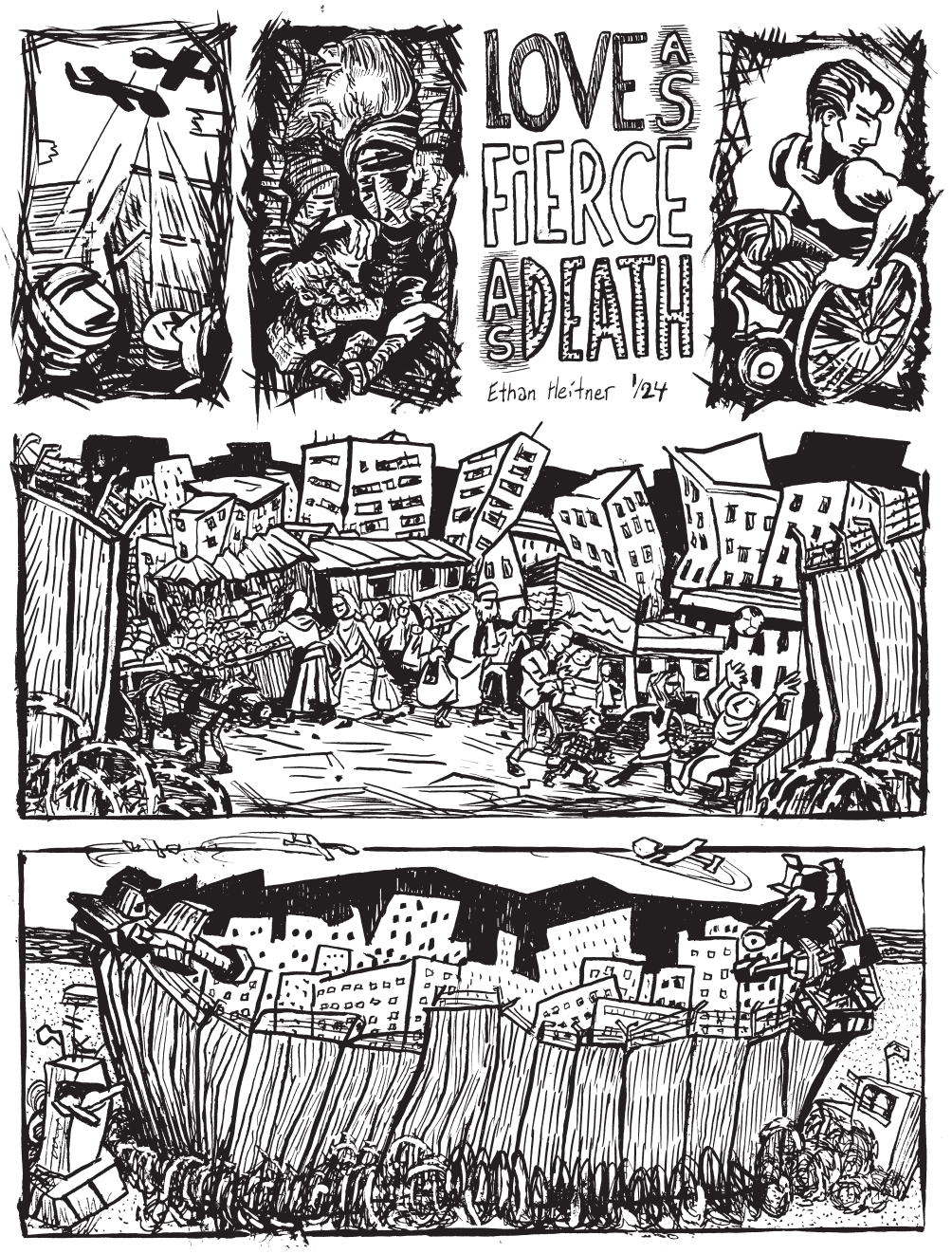
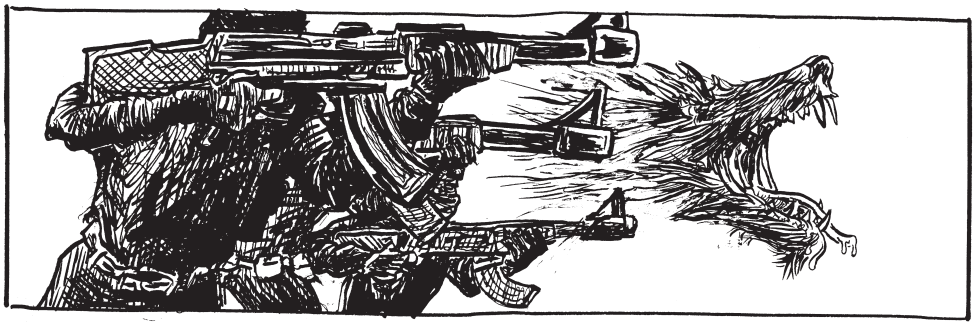
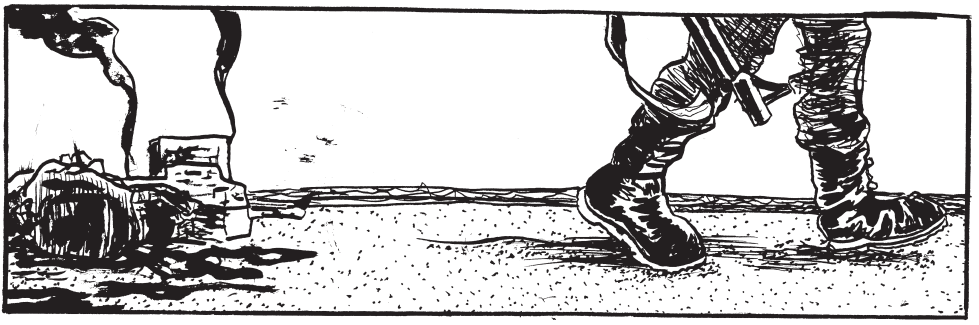
Love As Fierce As Death by Ethan Heitner



THEY WERE DANCING
OUTSIDE THE WORLD'S LARGEST PRISON AS IF
EVERYTHING WAS NORMAL



IT IS DEEPLY HUMAN TO FIGHT FOR FREEDOM. IT IS DEEPLY HUMAN TO FEEL EXHILIRATION. EVEN JOY WHEN YOUR FAMILY, WHO HAVE BEEN STARVED, TORTURED, IMPRISONED, BREAK FREE. AND IT IS DEEPLY HUMAN THAT THOSE SAME PEOPLE WHO HAVE KNOWN SUCH TRAUMA MAY GO ON TO COMMIT HORRIBLE CRIMES.

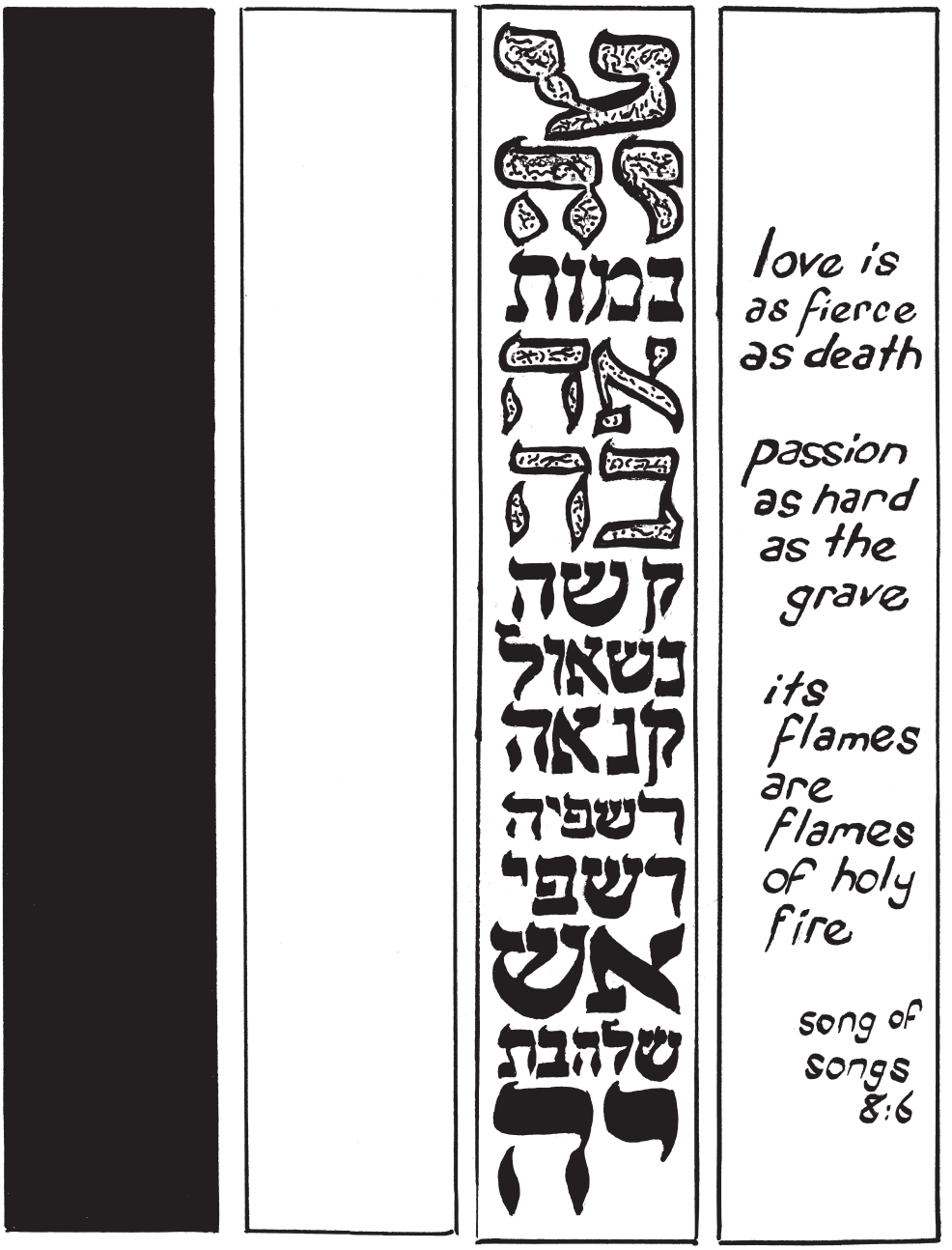


I ALSO PRETEND EVERYTHING IS NORMAL
UNTIL I CAN'T
I DON'T THINK ANY VIOLENCE CAN BE "LEGITIMATE"
PREDICTABLE? UNDERSTANDABLE? EFFECTIVE? I DON'T KNOW
WHY DON'T YOU DENOUNCE HAMAS?!
WHY DOES THAT EVEN MATTER?
WE ARE AGAINST WARS!

SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIANS IS NOT A THREAT
THAT DEMANDS UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS STANDING OUTSIDE JEWISH PRESCHOOLS IN NEW YORK CITY

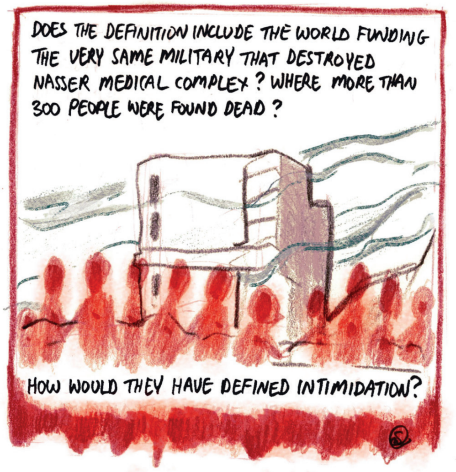
NO-ONE WINS A WAR

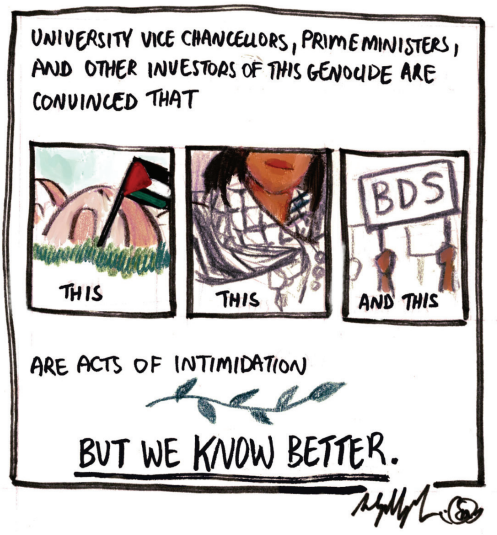
ISRAEL IS A MACHINE FOR THE CONVERSION OF JEWISH GRIEF INTO MILITARY POWER
BUT JEWISH SAFETY & FREEDOM CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN PALESTINIAN SAFETY & FREEDOM & VICE VERSA
EVERY ONE
FOR
EVERY ONE


כי עזה כמות אהבה
קשה כשאול קנאה
רשפיה רשפי אש
שלהבת יה
love is as fierce as death
passion as hard as the grave
its flames are flames of holy fire
song of songs 8:6

Intimidation by Soolagna Majumdar

OF THE 1.7 MILLION PALESTINIANS WHO ARE NOW INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN GAZA, BY ISRAEL, MORE THAN HALF ARE CHILDREN.
HOW WOULD THEY DEFINE "INTIMIDATION"?


DOES THE DEFINITION INCLUDE THE WORLD FUNDING THE VERY SAME MILITARY THAT DESTROYED NASSER MEDICAL COMPLEX? WHERE MORE THAN 300 PEOPLE WERE FOUND DEAD?
HOW WOULD THEY HAVE DEFINED INTIMIDATION?



Passiv-fy by Niccolo Pizarro

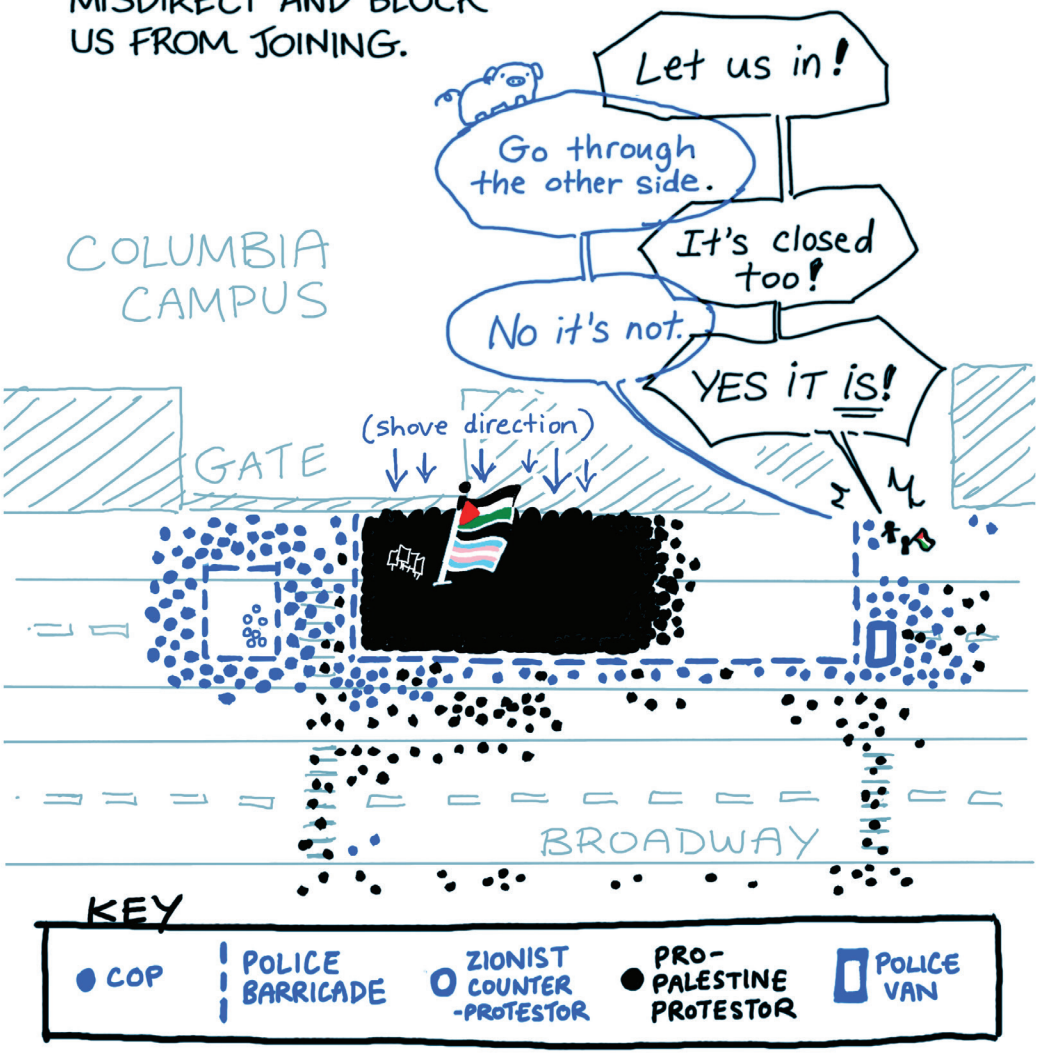
Hey! Have you played the new phone game by the big newspaper?!
No, how do you play?
Well they give you a straight forward headline and you gotta apply the passive voice instead!
So what would you do for this one?
Play Passiv-fy!
Israeli bombardment kills hundreds and destroys last major hospital in Gaza
Enter answer...
Is this true?! That's awful!
Well I would say, "After Explosions At Hospital, Many Turn Up Dead"
You also get bonus points if you say the hospital was an "Iranian Backed Hamas Command Center."
+1000!
This is really disingenuous!
Aw well, no worries! That's just the free trial. Ya gotta subscribe to play more!

Israel's Defense by Eli Valley

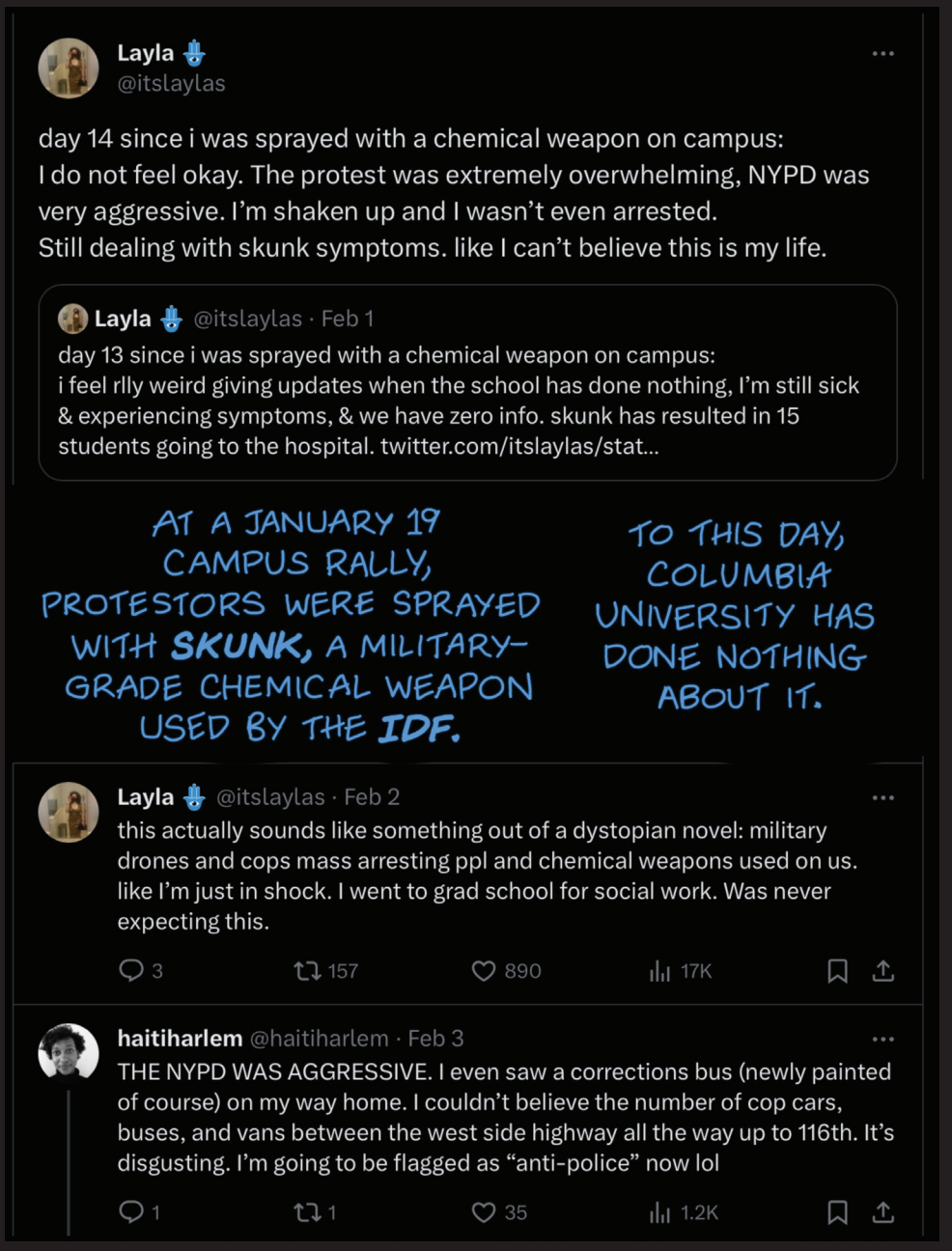
IT'S A BLOOD LIBEL TO HIT "PLAY" ON OUR GENOCIDE TIKTOKS!
PRESS

Columbia Protests by Kaitlyn Quach

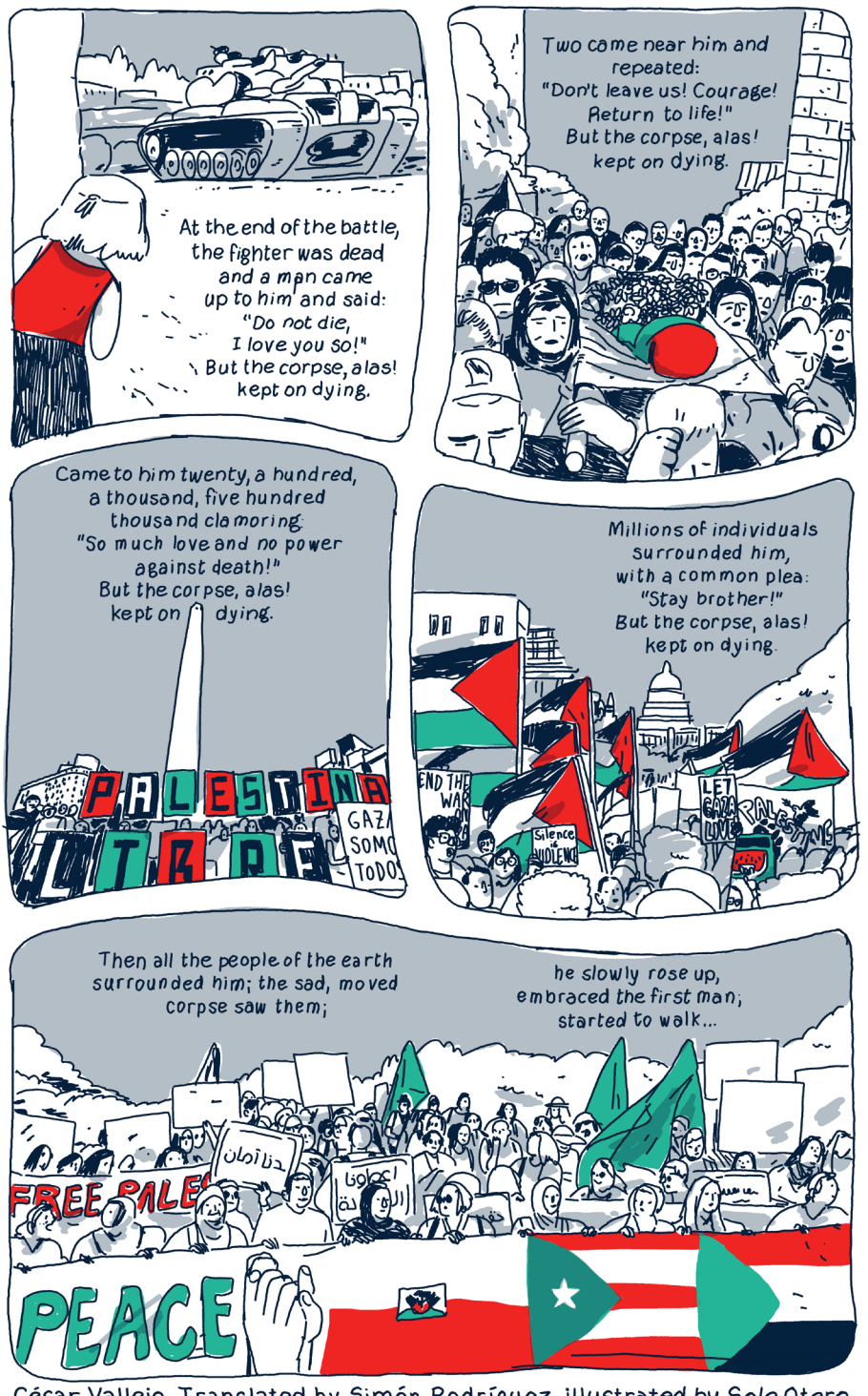
WHEN I GOT THERE, THEY WERE HARD AT WORK TRYING TO MISDIRECT AND BLOCK US FROM JOINING.



WHEN WE BEGAN MARCHING, COPS OFTEN PHYSICALLY ATTACKED AND BRUTALLY ARRESTED SEVERAL PEACEFUL PROTESTORS.
LET GO OF HIM!
STOP STOP
CEASE FIRE NOW
LAND BACK!
FREE PALESTINE


Layla
@itslaylas
day 14 since i was sprayed with a chemical weapon on campus:
I do not feel okay. The protest was extremely overwhelming, NYPD was very aggressive. I'm shaken up and I wasn't even arrested.
Still dealing with skunk symptoms. like I can't believe this is my life.
Layla @itslaylas · Feb 1
day 13 since i was sprayed with a chemical weapon on campus:
i feel rlly weird giving updates when the school has done nothing, I'm still sick & experiencing symptoms, & we have zero info. skunk has resulted in 15 students going to the hospital. twitter.com/itslaylas/stat...
AT A JANUARY 19 CAMPUS RALLY, PROTESTORS WERE SPRAYED WITH SKUNK, A MILITARY-GRADE CHEMICAL WEAPON USED BY THE IDF.
TO THIS DAY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY HAS DONE NOTHING ABOUT IT.
Layla @itslaylas · Feb 2
this actually sounds like something out of a dystopian novel: military drones and cops mass arresting ppl and chemical weapons used on us. like I'm just in shock. I went to grad school for social work. Was never expecting this.
3
157
890
17K
haitiharlem @haitiharlem · Feb 3
THE NYPD WAS AGGRESSIVE. I even saw a corrections bus (newly painted of course) on my way home. I couldn't believe the number of cop cars, buses, and vans between the west side highway all the way up to 116th. It's disgusting. I'm going to be flagged as "anti-police" now lol
1
1
35
1.2K

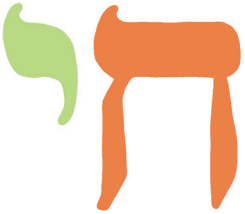
Masses adapted by Sole Otero and Simón Rodríguez



César Vallejo, Translated by Simón Rodríguez, illustrated by Sole Otero

Choose Life by BeneDí

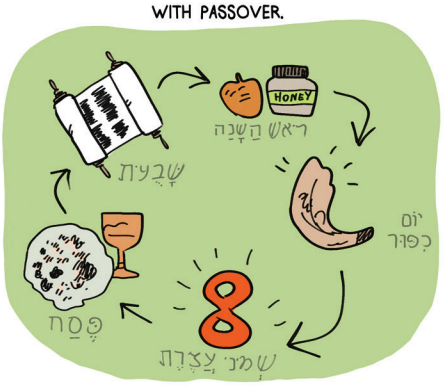
Choose life
so you and your
offspring would live



This artist does not recognize the term "genocide" as a valid depiction under International Law of the conflict in Gaza as for the time in which the Comics was made. By no means, is this intended to dismiss or diminish the massacre perpetrated against the civil population in Gaza and the West Bank since October 7th.

FROM THE SUNSET OF OCTOBER 6TH UNTIL THE NIGHTTIME OF THE 8TH 2023, THE CELEBRATIONS OF SHEMINI ATZERET AND SIMCHAT TORAH TOOK PLACE.

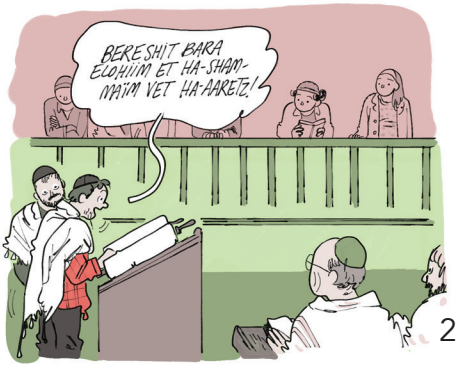
SHEMINI ATZERET IS A CELEBRATION MENTIONED IN THE TORAH AND LITERALLY TRANSLATES INTO " THE EIGHT OF ENDING " AND CLOSES THE CYCLE OF CELEBRATIONS STARTED IN SPRING WITH PASSOVER.



IN DIASPORA, THE " YOM TOV " (HOLYDAY) LASTS TWO DAYS, SO SIMCHAT TORAH APPEARED LATER AS A CELEBRATION TO ENRICH THE SECOND FESTIVE DAY OF SHEMINI ATZERET.

" SIMCHAT TORAH " MEANS " JOY OF THE TORAH ", AND IT'S THE DAY IN WHICH WE COMPLETE THE READING OF THE PENTATEUCH, JUST TO IMMEDIATELY START THE CYCLE OF THE TORAH AGAIN.

IT'S ONE OF THE MOST JOYFUL AND CHEERFUL MOMENTS OF THE JEWISH YEAR: THE TORAH AND JUDAISM SYMBOLICALLY NEVER STOP TO BE EXPLORED.

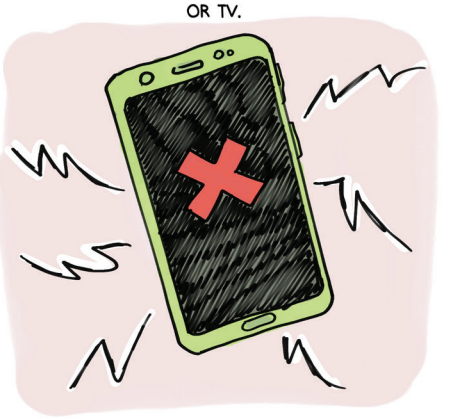


I WAS LUCKY ENOUGHT TO BE IN BOLOGNA (ITALY) TO CELEBRATE, AND ON THE FIRST NIGHT I WAS INVITED TO SHARE A FESTIVE MEAL WITH THE COMMUNITY.

THE DAY AFTER, SATURDAY MORNING, I WENT AGAIN FOR THE OTHER SERVICE. BUT THIS TIME, SOMETHING WAS OFF.

THE PRAYER TOOK PLACE NORMALLY, HELD AS THE TRADITION REQUIRES.

SINCE IT'S SHABBAT I HAVEN'T TOUCHED MY PHONE, NOR READ ANY NEWS ON INTERNET OR TV.

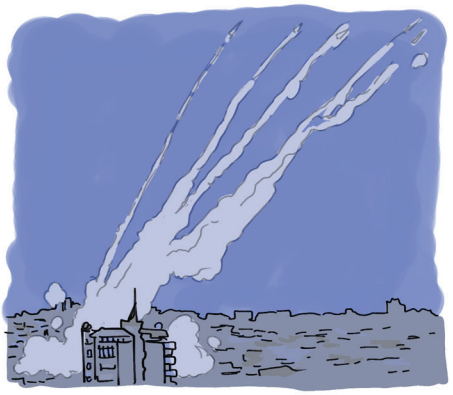


I WAS NOT AWARE THAT EARLIER THAT NIGHT A MASSIVE ATTACK FROM LAND, SKY AND SEA HAD TOOK PLACE IN THE ISRAELI TERRITORY NEIGHBOURING THE GAZA STRIP.

WHEN WE HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER LATER ON, I ASK TO AN ISRAELI TOURIST, WHO LOOKS VERY DISTRESSED :

SHE LOOKS AT ME AND SAYS:

I AM VERY CONFUSED : AT WAR? AGAINST WHO ? HOW COME ?



IT IS SO DIFFICULT TO REALIZE THE AWFULNESS OF WHAT IS HAPPENING. IT IS SO AWFUL ALSO BECAUSE IT IS TAKING PLACE IN A YEAR, 2023, WHICH ALREADY WAS ONE OF THE WORST IN LONG TIME FOR THAT REGION.

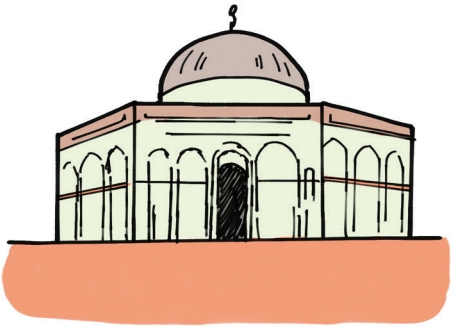
2023 HAS BEEN THE DEADLIEST YEAR FOR THE PALESTINIANS CHILDREN IN THE WEST BANK SINCE 2005 (2ND INTIFADA)

MULTIPLE ATTACKS LAUNCHED FROM GAZA WERE ANSWERED WITH DEADLY BOMBINGS , THAT KILLED HUNDREDS AND DISPLACED EVEN MORE BEFORE THE CONFLICT STARTED.

THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, THE MOST RELIGIOUSLY FANTATIC AND FAR RIGHT EVER IN PLACE, APPROVED AND TRIED TO IMPLEMENT A CONTROVERSIAL AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC JUDICIAL REFORM.

THIS SAME GOVERMENT CLOSED BOTH EYES OR EVEN ENCOURAGED COLONIZERS AND SETTLERS TO VIOLENTLY AGGRESS AND ATTACK PALESTINIANS VILLAGES, ENHANCING THE TENSION IN THE AREA.

SYSTEMATIC VIOLENCE AND ACTS OF DISRESPECT TOWARDS MUSLIM HOLY SITES BY JEWISH EXTREMISTS WERE ALMOST NOT CONDEMNED, NOR PROSECUTED.



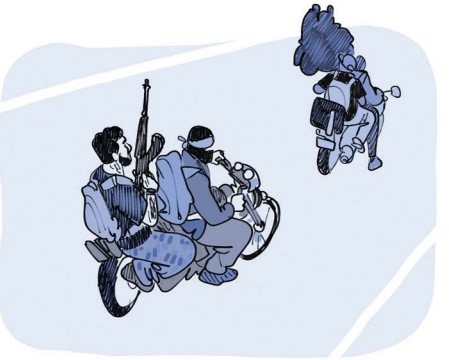
ON TOP OF THAT, THE ALMOST-TO-BE-SIGNED NORMALISATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SAUDI ARABIA, WHICH COMPLETELY OVERLOOKED THE PALESTINIAN VOICE, POSSIBLY DETERIORATED EVEN MORE THE SITUATION.

A POLITICAL CLASS THAT ACCOUNTS FOR ONE MEMBER, MERAV BEN-HARI, HAVING CLAIMED THAT...

FOR THE PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL , ISAAC HERZOG:

" IT IS AN ENTIRE NATION THAT IS RESPONSIBLE (...) IT IS NOT TRUE THE RHETORIC ABOUT CIVILIANS NOT BEING AWARE, NOT BEING INVOLVED " *
* image does not coincides with the actual footage of the speech

FOR SOME OF THESE PEOPLE, ISRAEL'S DARKEST DAY IN HISTORY WAS ALMOST A BLESSING FOR THEIR POLITICAL SURVIVAL .



FOR THIS POLITICAL CLASS, THE EQUATION
HAMAS = GAZA
IS THE WINNING CARD TO PLAY TO THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

A POLITICAL CLASS THAT THEN DESPISE THOSE
YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN REFUSING TO
PARTAKE IN A MASSACRE BY JOINING THE ARMY.

A POLITICAL CLASS THAT FAILS TO PROVIDE
SUPPORT AND ANSWERS TO THE FAMILIES OF
THE HOSTAGES WHEN IT IS NOT POLITICALLY
CONVIENIENT TO DO SO.

SOME OF THEM ARE THE SAME PEOPLE WHO
CLAIMED FOR YEARS THAT ISRAEL WOULD
HAVE BEEN THE SAFE HAVEN FOR JEWS
SCARED OF BEING JEWS WORLDWIDE.

BACK TO THE AFTERMATH OF THE 7TH OCTOBER,
AT A TIME, I HAD TO GET BACK TO REALITY AND
READ THE NEWS.

EVENTUALLY, I END UP WATCHING THE
VIDEO SHARED ONLINE.

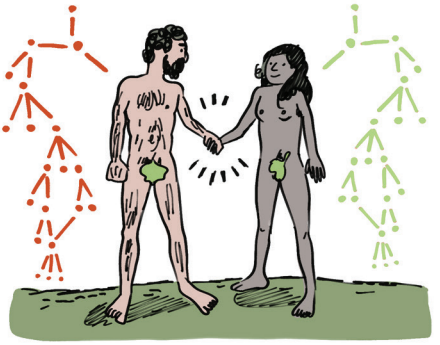
THE 8TH OF OCTOBER IS SIMCHAT TORAH.

ON THIS DAY, ONE PUBLICLY READ THE TORAH PORTION WHICH INCLUDES THE FIRST PART OF GENESIS, DESCRIBING THE CREATION OF THE WORLD.

ACCORDING TO THE SAGES, THE TORAH UPON WHICH THE JEWISH LAW IS DRAWN, STARTS WITH A UNIVERSAL TALE OF CREATION FOR A REASON.

וַיִּבְרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם
בְּצַלְמוֹ בְּצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים בָּרָא
אֹתוֹ זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה בָּרָא אֹתָם׃

THIS WAY, EVERY INDIVIDUAL SHALL KNOW THAT WE ALL BELONG THE SAME FAMILY OF HUMANS, IN SPITE OF ETHNICITY, RELIGION, NATIONALITY.



AS HUMANS, WE CAN'T ONLY STARE AT THIS WHILE IT HAPPENS AND DO NOTHING, ALLOWING AN ENTIRE GENERATION TO GROW IN TRAUMA AND DISTRESS.

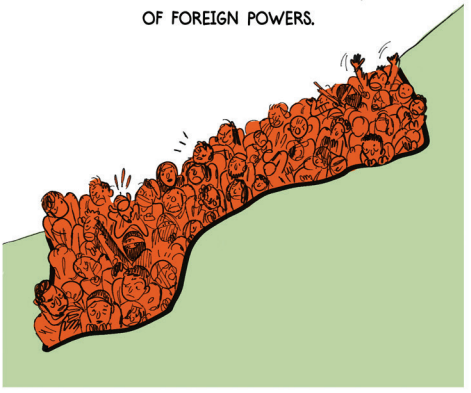
A LACKING SENSE OF SECURITY PRODUCES A LACKING SENSE OF FUTURE , PERSPECTIVE AND MEANING.

A SENSE OF HELPESSNESS RISES, DISRUPTING THE OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN ONESELF TO THE OTHER AND CREATE CONNECTION.

I CANNOT HELP BUT THINK: THE GAZA STRIP IS ONE OF THE MOST SURVEILLED AREA IN THE WHOLE WORLD. HOW MUCH MORE CONTROL HAS TO BE PUT IN PLACE ? IS THIS BY ANY MEAN A SOLUTION ?

ALL THIS TIME WE FOCUSED ON SECURITY AS IF THAT WOULD HAVE MEANT STABILITY.

WE CHOSE TO IGNORE THAT 2,5 MILLION PEOPLE WERE AND ARE LOCKED IN AN AREA THE SIZE OF 1/4 OF LONDON, WITH ALMOST NO WAY OUT IF NOT UNDER PERMISSION OF FOREIGN POWERS.



WE ARE CHOOSING TO ACCEPT THAT A MASSACRE IS UNFOLDING BEFORE OUR EYES.

WE CHOOSE FOR ACCEPT THAT A "RIGHTFUL RETALIATION" REQUIRES MORE THAN 28,000 PEOPLE TO DIE.

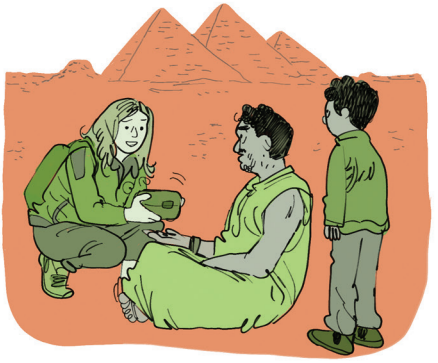
WE CHOOSE FOR ACCEPT THAT 10,000 + OF THEM ARE CHILDREN, TODDLERS, NEWBORNS.

WE CHOOSE TO ACCEPT TO STARVE AN ENTIRE POPULATION TO THE POINT OF OBLIGING PEOPLE TO GRIND ANIMAL FOOD TO MAKE FLOUR FOR BREAD.

WE STARE AT THE MOST RELIGIOUS BLOCKING AIDS FROM ENTERING GAZA AS FOR IT WAS A DUTY FROM GOD TO MAKE PEOPLE'S LIFE MISERABLE.

THE SAME THAT KNOW PERFECTLY THAT ONE OF THE MOST REPEATED COMMANDEMENT IN THE TORAH IS ...

... " YOU SHALL NOT WRONG OR OPPRESS A STRANGER, FOR YOU WERE STRANGERS IN THE LAND OF EGYPT "



I HAVE ZERO ENTITLEMENT TO DICTATE THE AGENDA TO NOBODY UPON THIS DELICATE SUBJECT.

I AM NOBODY TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS, EXPERIENCES, FAITHS, IDEOLOGIES, TO STEP BACK AND PUSH FOR A DE-ESCALATION OF THIS TENSION.

I AM NOBODY TO UNDERSTAND THE PAIN AND SORROW PRODUCED BY THE HORRIBLE LOSSES THAT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE MOURN SINCE MONTHS NOW.

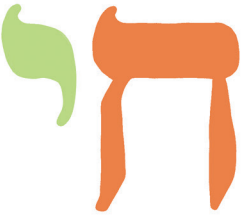
I DO NOT LOOK FOR HOPE. I WANT TO ENGAGE IN A PATH OF PEACE AND COOPERATION, WHATEVER SHAPE THAT AREA OF THE WORLD HAS TO TAKE.

ONE OF MY FAVOURITE TORAH QUOTES IS TO BE FOUND IN THE PARASHA NITZAVIM, IN DEUTERONOMY 30: 19

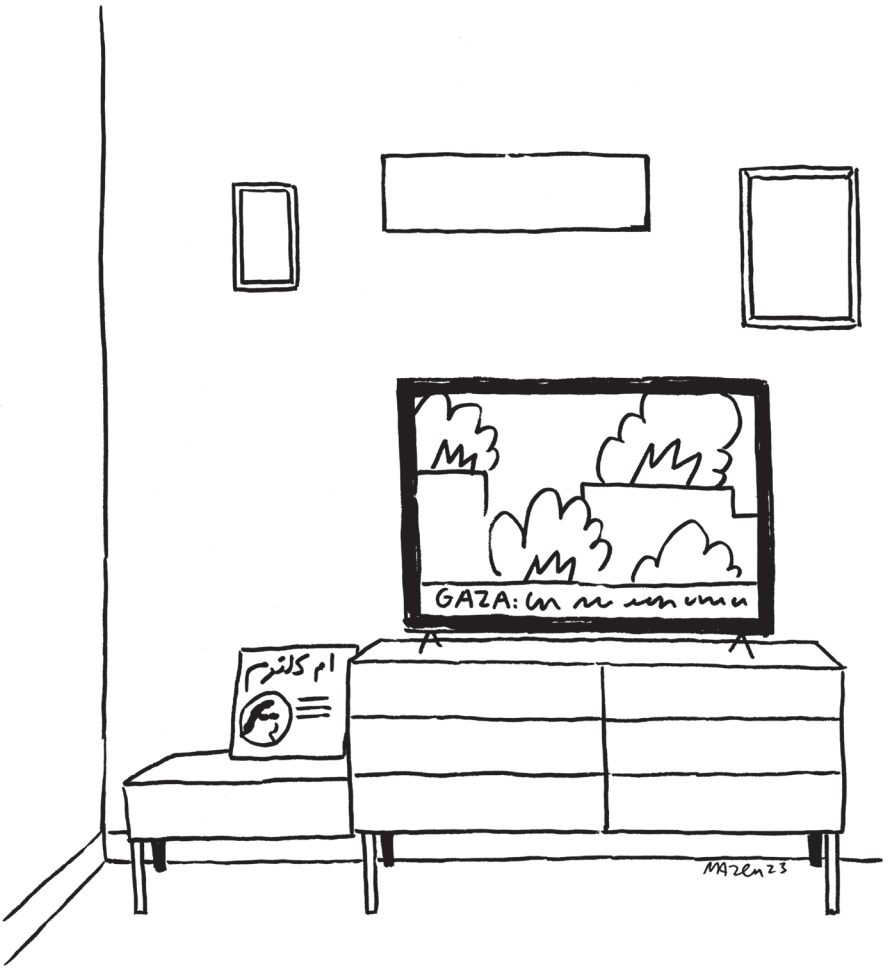
הַעִדֹתִי בָכֶם הַיּוֹם אֶת־הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ
הַחַיִּים וְהַמָּוֶת נָתַתִּי לְפָנֶיךָ הַבְּרָכָה
וְהַקְּלָלָה **וּבָחַרְתָּ בַּחַיִּים** לְמַעַן
תִּחְיֶה אַתָּה וְזַרְעֶךָ:

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day: I have put before you life and death, blessing and curse. **Choose life**, so you and your offspring would live."

HOPEFULLY, WE WILL ALL CHOOSE LIFE.



Gaza In My Phone by Mazen Kerbaj

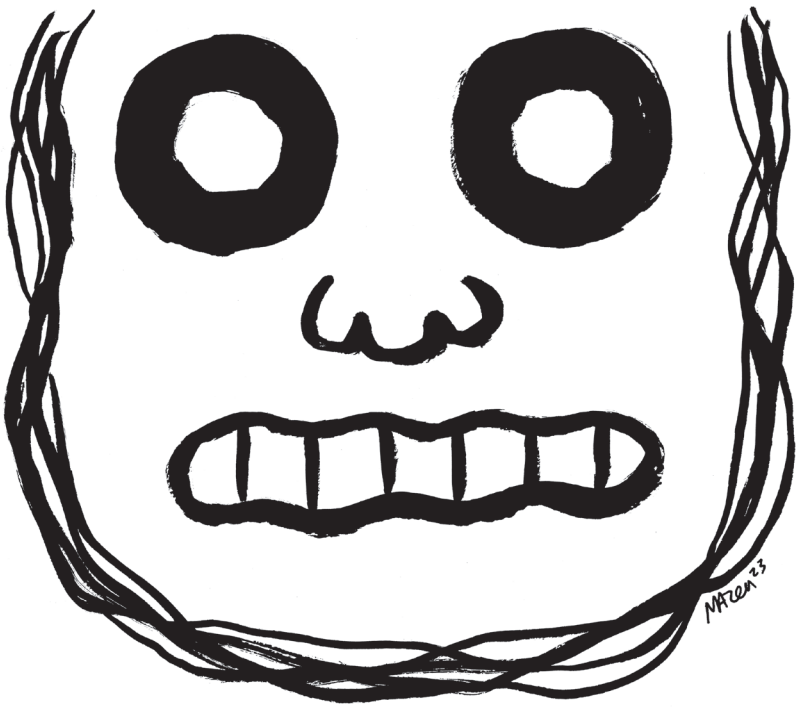


THE GUILT
OF KNOWING THAT YOU ARE
LIVING IN A SAFE PLACE.

26. OKT. 2023

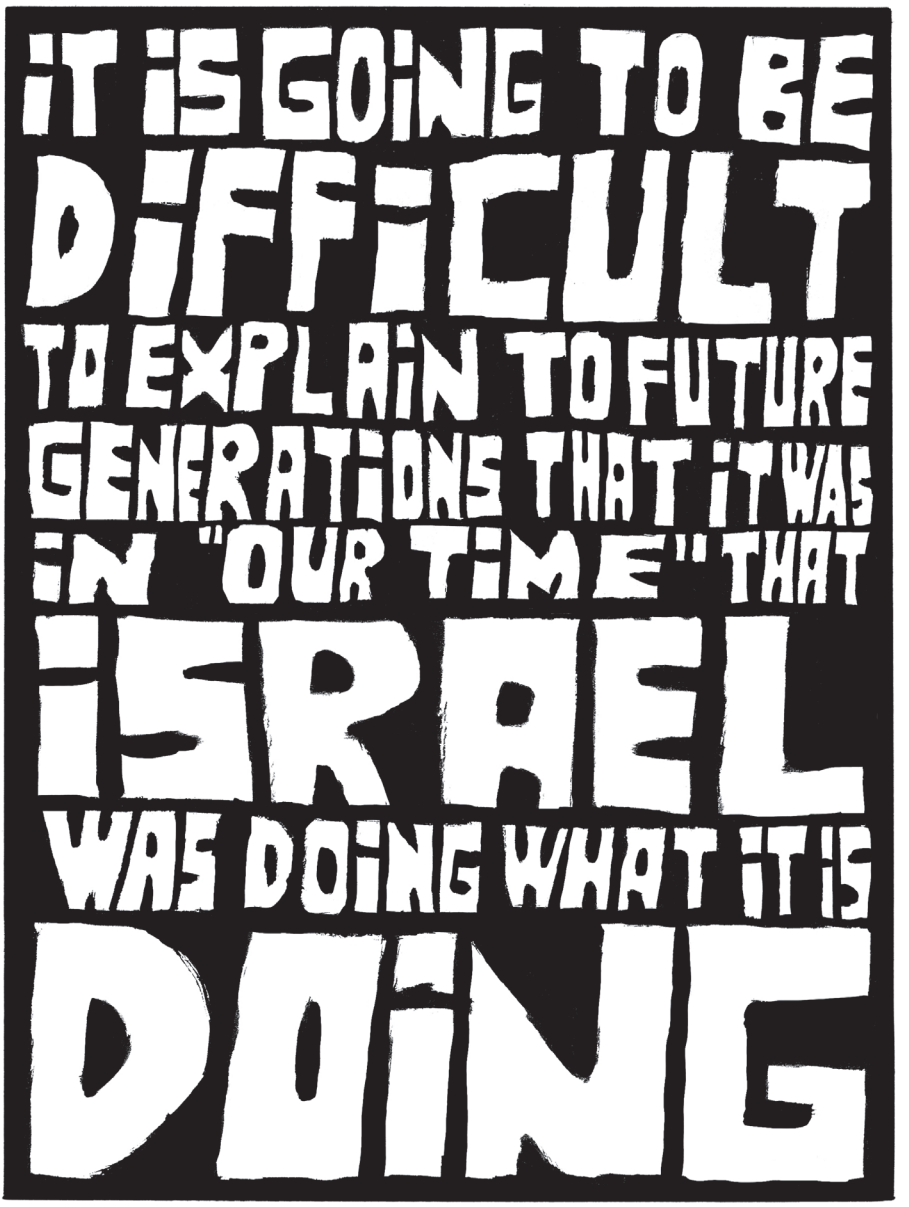
LEADERS OF THE WORLD:
ISRAEL HAS THE RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF
PEOPLE OF THE WORLD:
FREE FREE PALESTINE
NOT IN OUR NAME
VIVA PALESTINA
JEWS FOR PALESTINE
CEASFIRE NOW
STOP THE GENOCIDE IN GAZA
22 OKT. 2023

That look



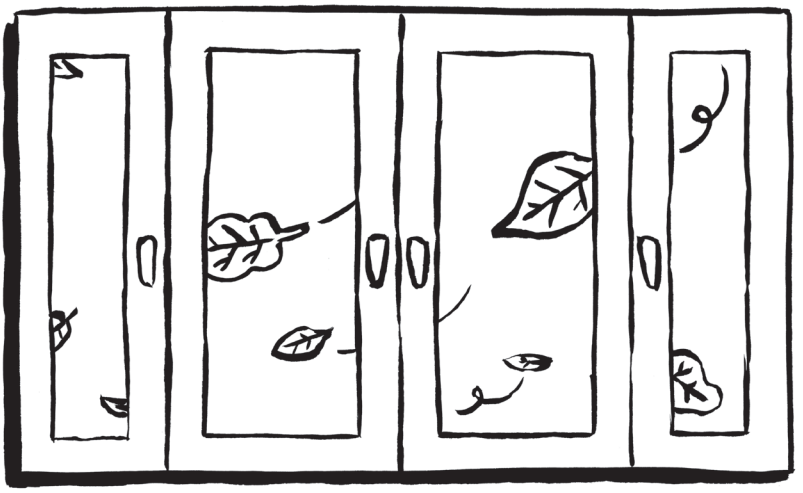
MORE DISTURBING THAN THE BODY OF A CHILD REMOVED FROM UNDER THE RUBBLE, THE FACE OF A SURVIVING CHILD RESCUED FROM UNDER THE RUBBLE. I AM TRYING TO IMAGINE WHAT HE WENT THROUGH.

02. NOV. 2023



THIS STICKER I DESIGNED IN 2021 IS MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER.

10. FEB. 2024



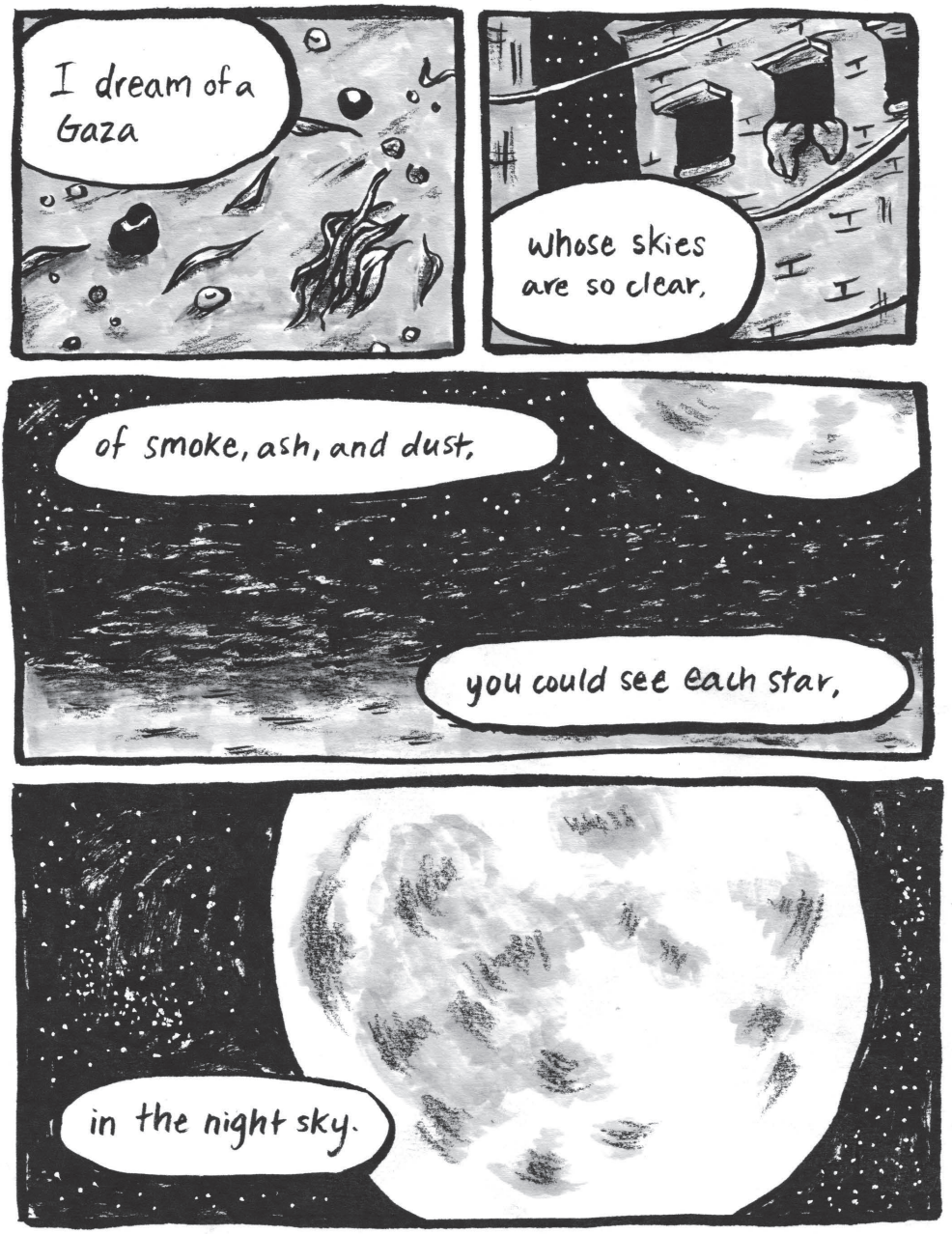
MY WINDOW ON THE FALLING LEAVES

MY WINDOW ON THE FALLING BOMBS

13. DEZ. 2023

WHILE I AM DRAWING
GAZA
IS BEING ERASED
14. JAN. 2024

I Dream of a Gaza by Emma Kim Rust



I dream of a Gaza
so free from
bombs or cries
that
you can hear the birds chirp,
the sea waves
crash,
the gentle rustle of
olive
tree
leaves.

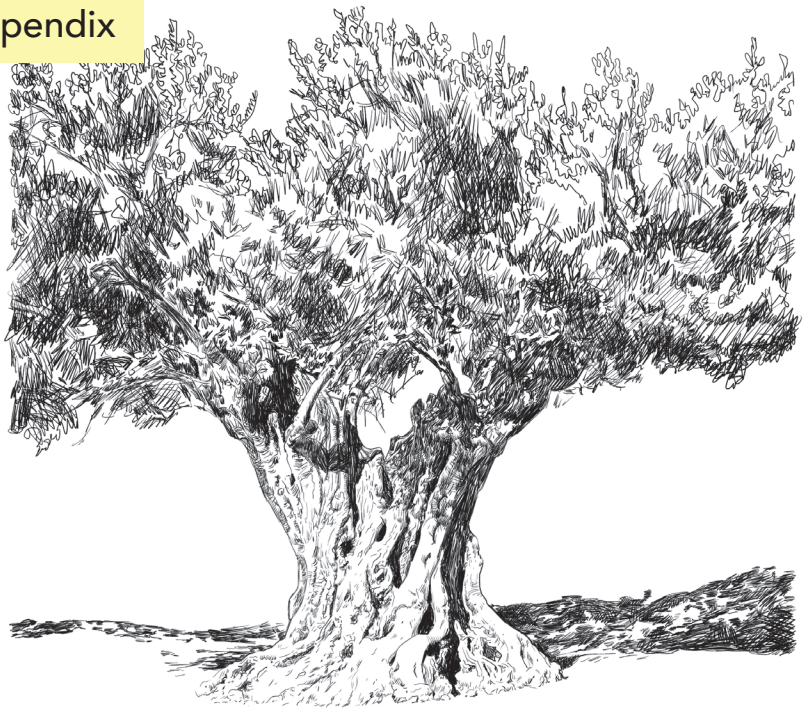
I dream of a Gaza where Gazans can taste
the beauty of thier spices,
the cleanliness of their water,
the soft nuttiness of their bread,
instead of the iron of blood and ash.

I dream of a Gaza
where people can sleep through the night.
And if they
do wake,
with memories of horrific seige,

They can look up at the roof,
over their heads,
turn to see
the faces
of those who survived

And know
they are now safe.
they are now
free...

Appendix



Palestine and the Right to Food

by Michael Fakhri and Omar Khouri

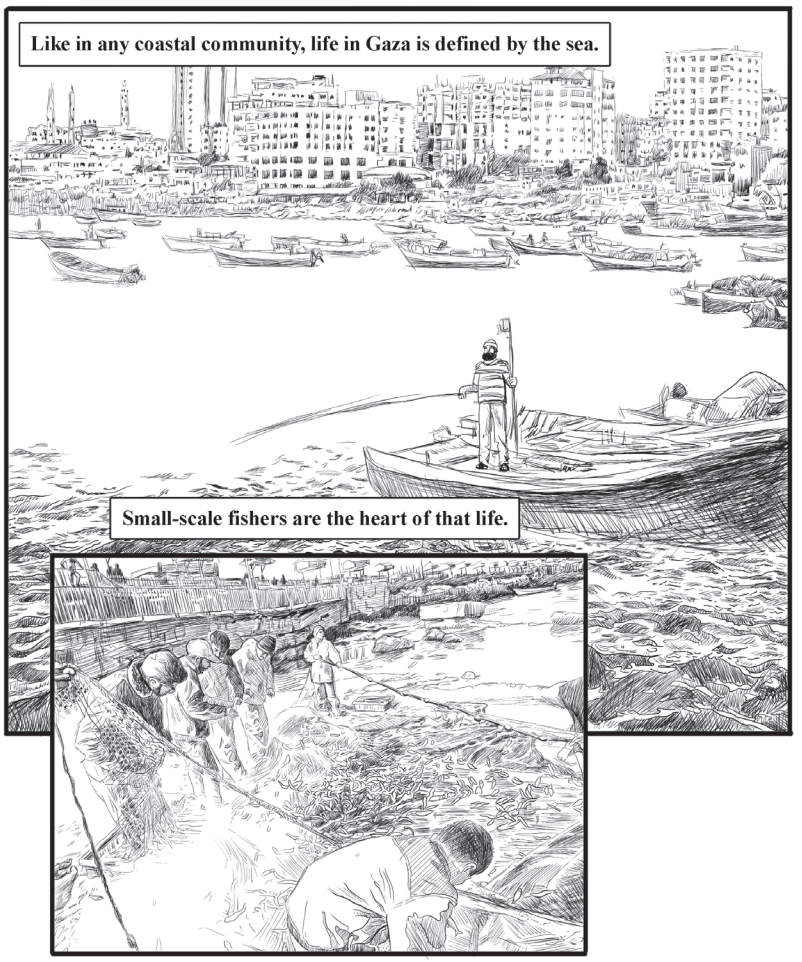
The following pages are three comics co-written by Michael Fakhri and Omar Khouri and illustrated by Khouri as part of an official report titled "Starvation and the Right to Food, with an Emphasis on the Palestinian People's Food Sovereignty", which Fakhri delivered to the UN General Assembly in his capacity as UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. A Special Rapporteur is one of over forty similar human rights experts that cover a wide-range of mandates in the UN. These UN human rights experts are volunteers and act as the independent eyes, ears and good conscience for the entire UN system. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food is the UN's leading human rights expert on all matters regarding hunger, malnutrition, and starvation.

This is the first time comics were used as part of a UN human rights report and we are grateful to the UN staff who supported and approved their inclusion. However, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management forced the separation of the illustrations from the body of the report at the last minute, unduly delaying the publication of the report. This action by the Assistant Secretary-General was in effect an attempt to interfere with the Special Rapporteur's independence, as well as a testament to the power of the medium of comics.

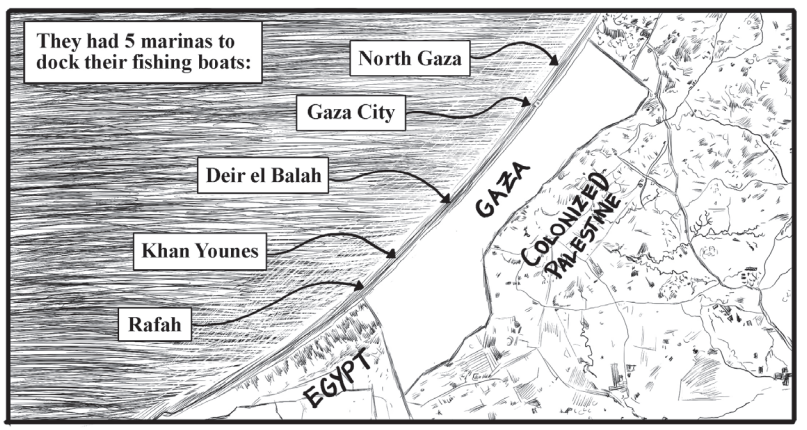
But nothing worth doing comes without a struggle. We knew that describing the horrors of today and the way to continue the fight into the future could not be conveyed through words alone. These comics also allowed us to explore the Palestinian struggle as one specific, yet extreme, symptom of the diseased global food system spread across the world today.

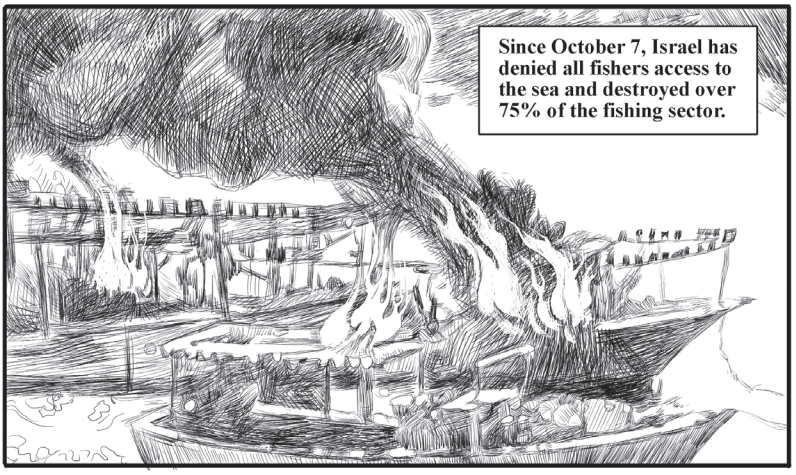
This version of the pages is slightly modified from the official report. For the recipe list, we kept the style of the text as is, which is always written in the third person.

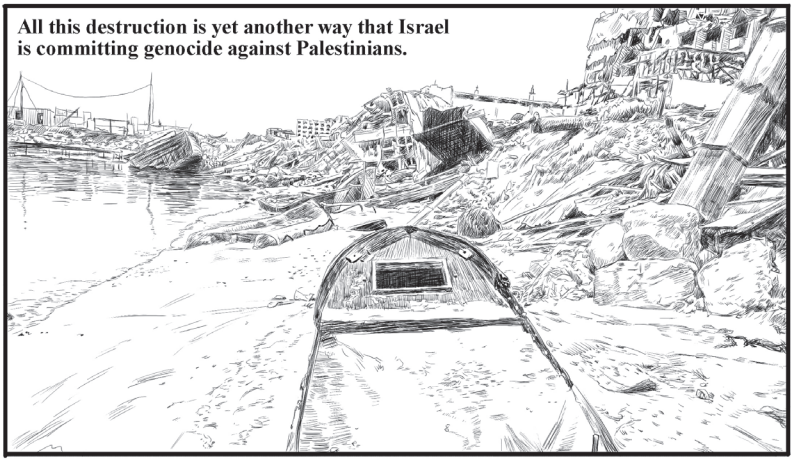
I. Gaza Fishers

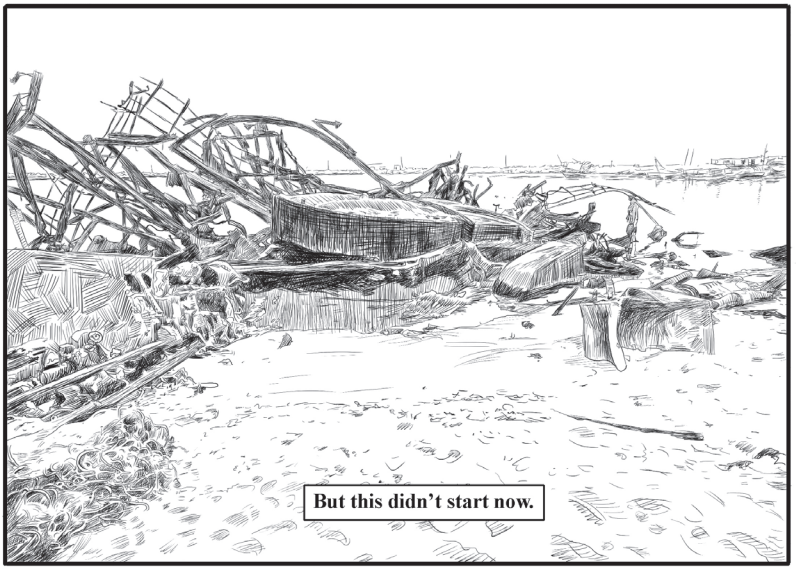


Before October 2023, Gaza's fishing community was made up of 4,500 regular workers, approximately 1,500 seasonal workers, 1,050 motor boats, and 900 row boats.




Since October 7, Israel has denied all fishers access to the sea and destroyed over 75% of the fishing sector.

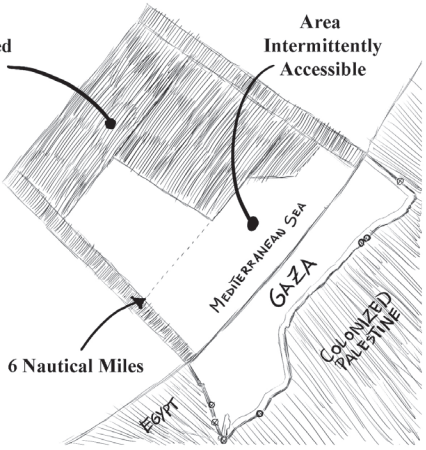

All this destruction is yet another way that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians.

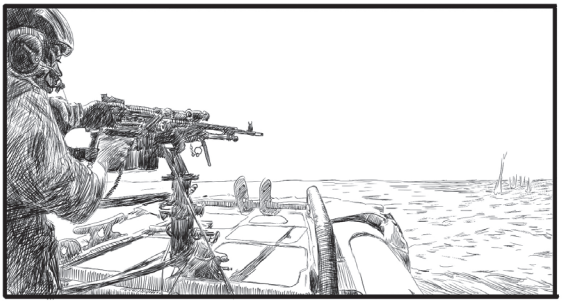

But this didn't start now.

Israel has been increasingly restricting the flow of people and goods in Gaza since 1991 as part of its occupation strategy.

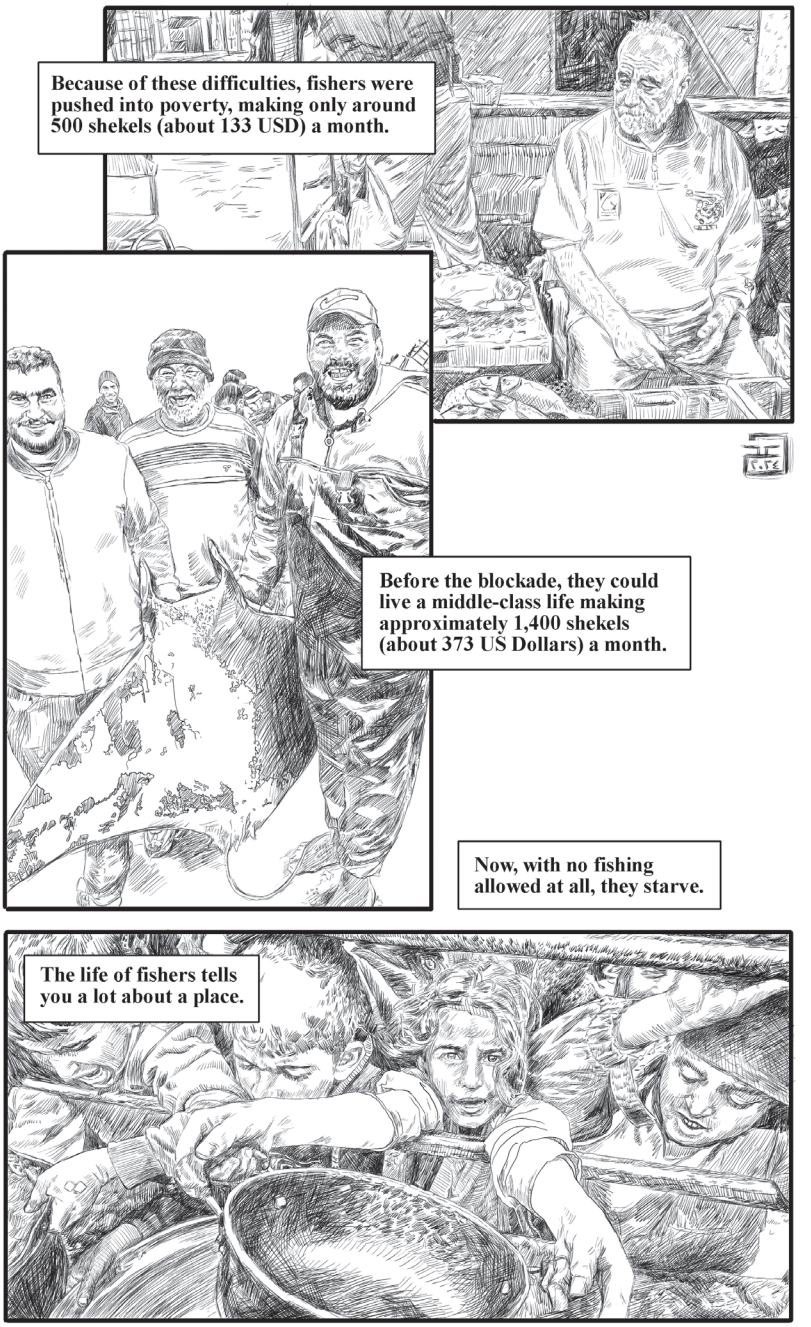
In 2007, Israel imposed a more permanent and acute blockade in Gaza, closing all sea and air routes, and severely restricting the movement of people and goods by land.

Under the Oslo Accords, Palestinians were supposed to be able to fish within 20 nautical miles from the shore. Israel, through the blockade, limited fishers to about 6 nautical miles from the shore, where fishing was not easy due to shallow waters with sandy and rocky sea floors.





They were also regularly shot at and arrested by Israeli forces simply for fishing in Palestinian territorial waters.


Because of these difficulties, fishers were pushed into poverty, making only around 500 shekels (about 133 USD) a month.
Before the blockade, they could live a middle-class life making approximately 1,400 shekels (about 373 US Dollars) a month.
Now, with no fishing allowed at all, they starve.
The life of fishers tells you a lot about a place.
In Gaza, it is telling us that the starvation of the Palestinian people isn't a sudden and unpredictable consequence of the latest aggressions by the Occupation Forces but a gradual and deliberate strategy that was set in motion many years ago.

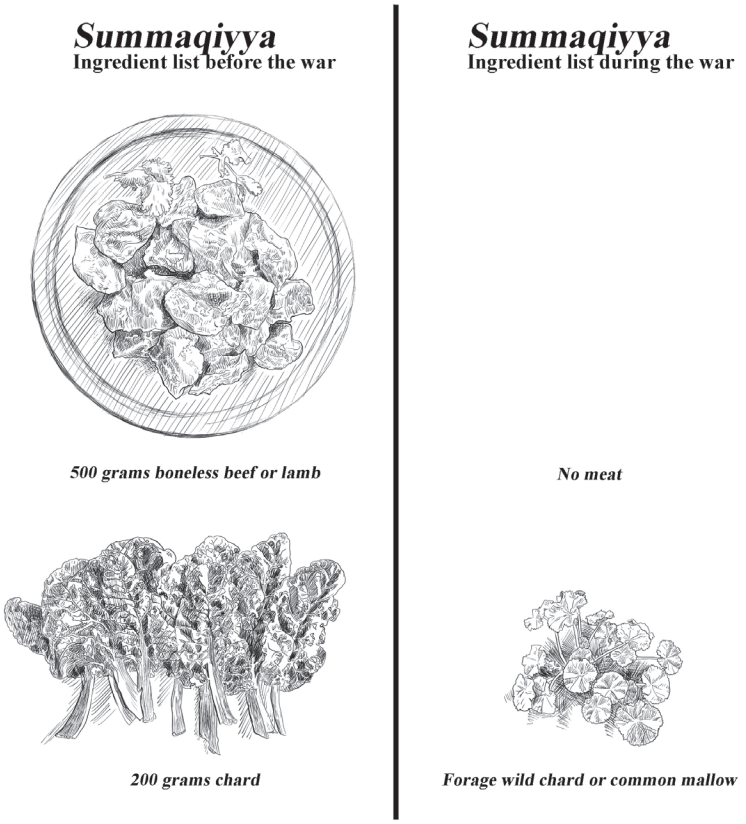
* This graphic report is based on firsthand testimony by Zakharia Fadel Hasan Baker, an Activist and Specialist in Gaza's Fishing Sector.

II. Dignity Despite Suffering

This is a unique moment within the history of the Palestinian people's century-long struggle for liberation and self-determination. Today, the Palestinian people's food sovereignty continues even during starvation. People in Gaza are still expressing their dignity through how they cook and eat, in how they continue to celebrate holidays even when surrounded by suffering. The Special Rapporteur received an account from Um Ahmad in Gaza wherein she described how she continued to cook summaqiyya, a quintessential Gazan festive dish dating back to the 11th century CE, with indigenous sumac berries (after which the dish is named). To feed people during Eid el Adha, she had to improvise without access to most of the usual ingredients. People like Um Ahmad, who carry and create recipes like this, hold knowledge about a people's ongoing relationship to the land, territory and history. This knowledge comes from the struggle of cooking and feeding one's family and community, regenerating life itself. This knowledge is critical for the realization of people's right to food.

In this graphic report, the Special Rapporteur shares the stark difference between two ingredient lists from two recipes for summaqiyya before and after this war in Gaza.

The ingredients that are currently available in Gaza markets are acquired at exorbitant prices. These recipes, like many recipes, are embedded in knowledge about the Palestinian people's ongoing relationship with their land, territory and history.* Collecting and sharing recipes is so much more than developing a cooking guide since it is a practice that preserves local knowledge, and changes as more people cook. Cooking, along with the collecting and sharing recipes, is also a practice of being steadfast and adaptable in moments of profound pain and suffering while expressing one's sense of dignity, reciprocity, care and self-determination.



* Laila Haddad and Maggie Schmitt, The Gaza Kitchen (Washington D.C., Just World Books, 2021).

Summaqiyya
Ingredient list before the war

½ cup sumac berries

4 large onions

1 head of garlic

5 green peppers

1 hot green chili pepper

Summaqiyya
Ingredient list during the war

Use dried sumac sparingly

No onions

No garlic

No green peppers

No hot green chili pepper

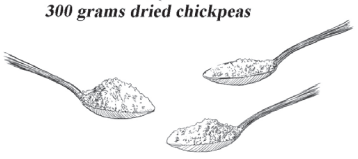
Summaqiyya
Ingredient list before the war

1 tablespoon dill seeds

1 teaspoon ground coriander seeds

¼ cup red tahini

300 grams dried chickpeas



2-3 tablespoons flour

Olive oil

Summaqiyya
Ingredient list during the war

No dill seeds

No Coriander seeds

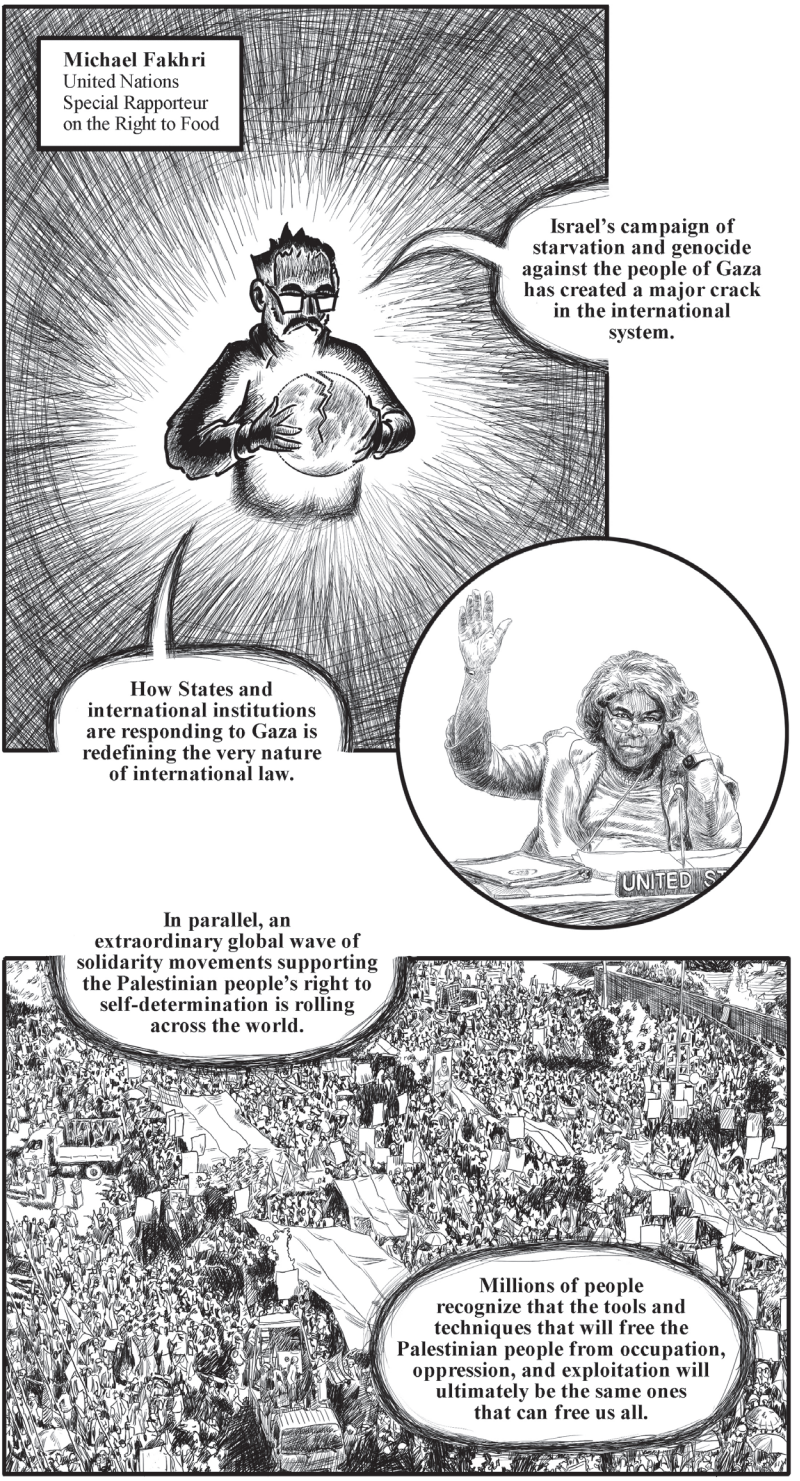
No red tahini.
Use white tahini if you have it.

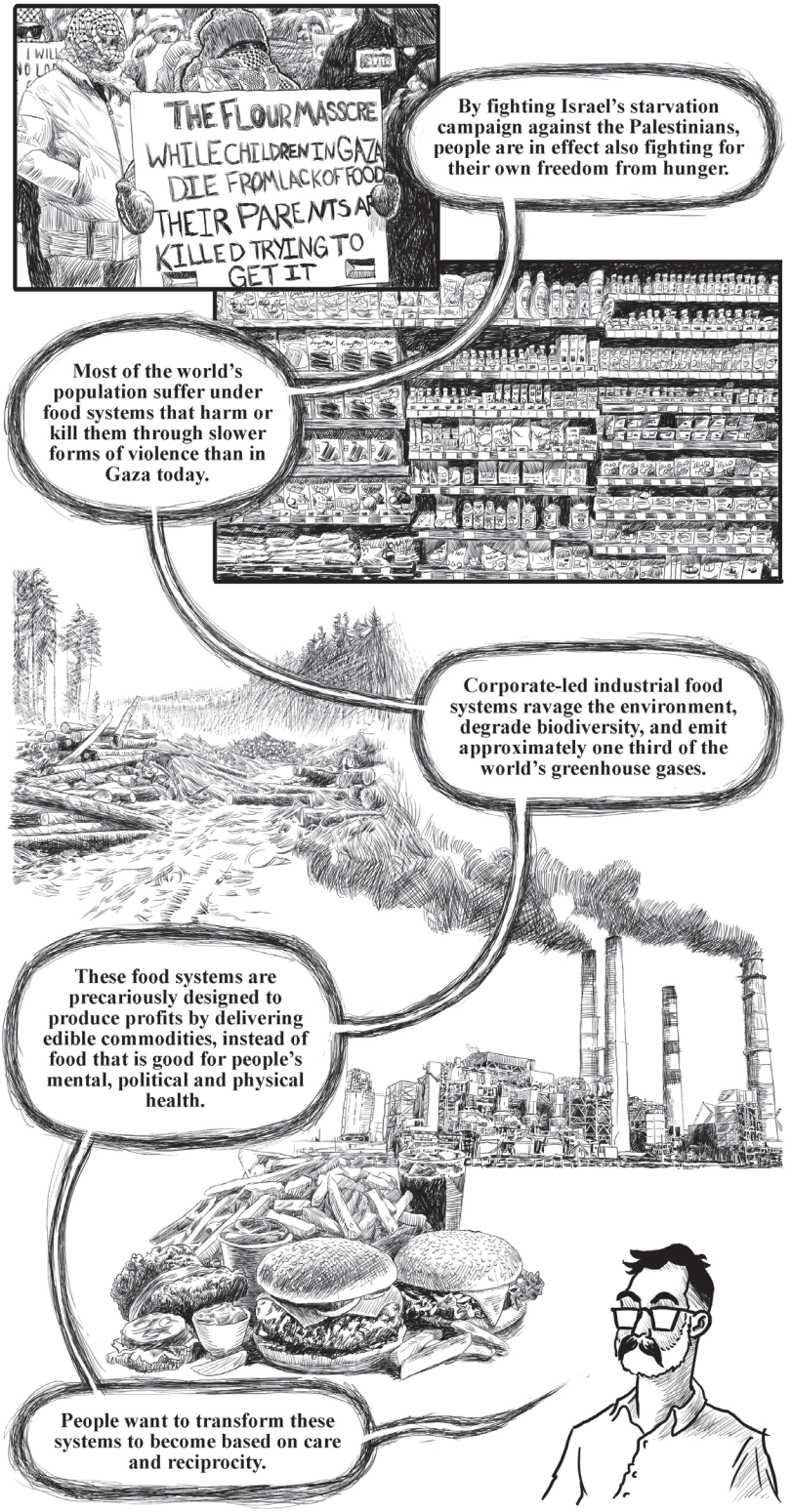
Canned chickpeas,
depending on the number of cans you have

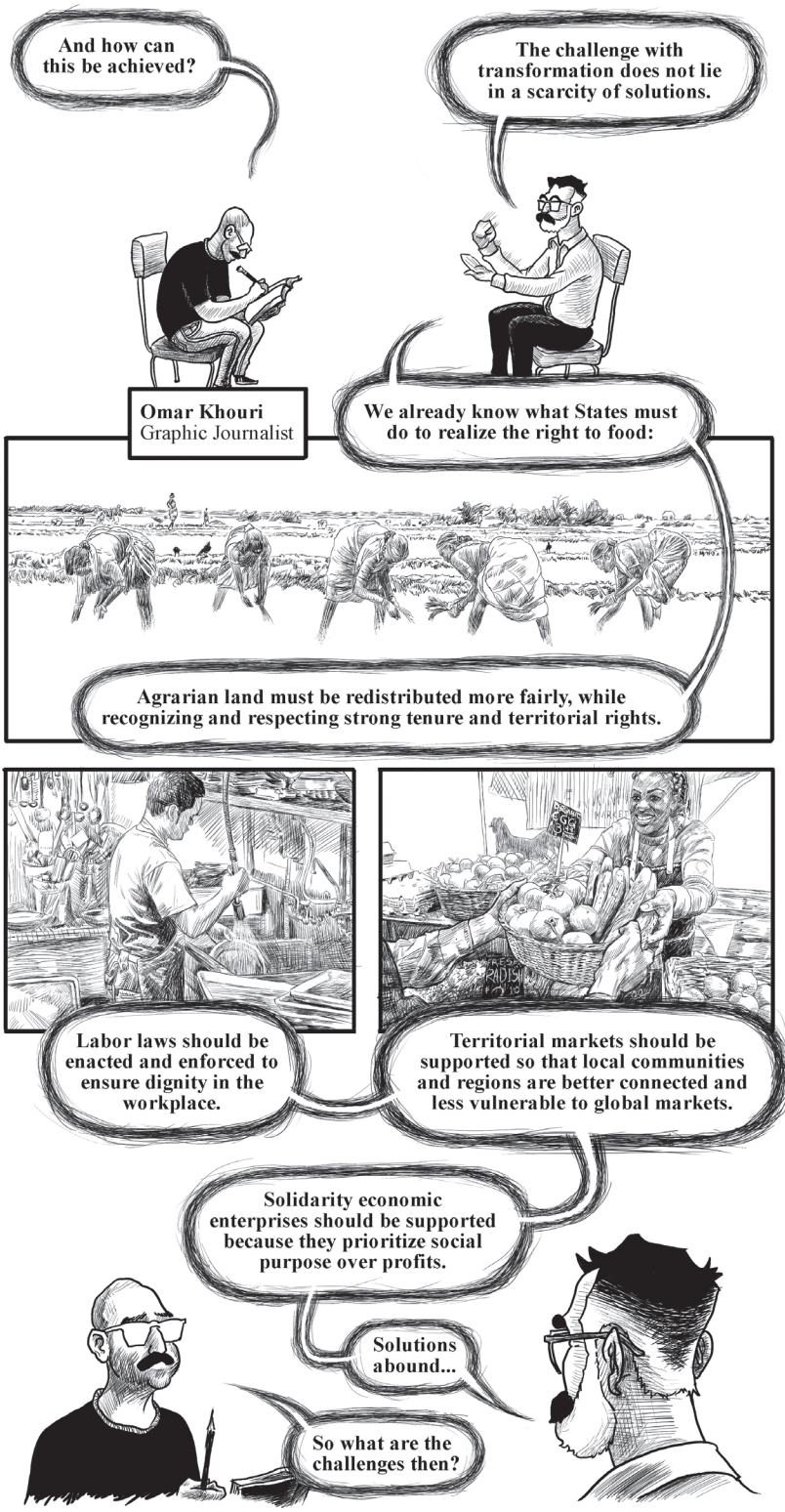
Use flour sparingly

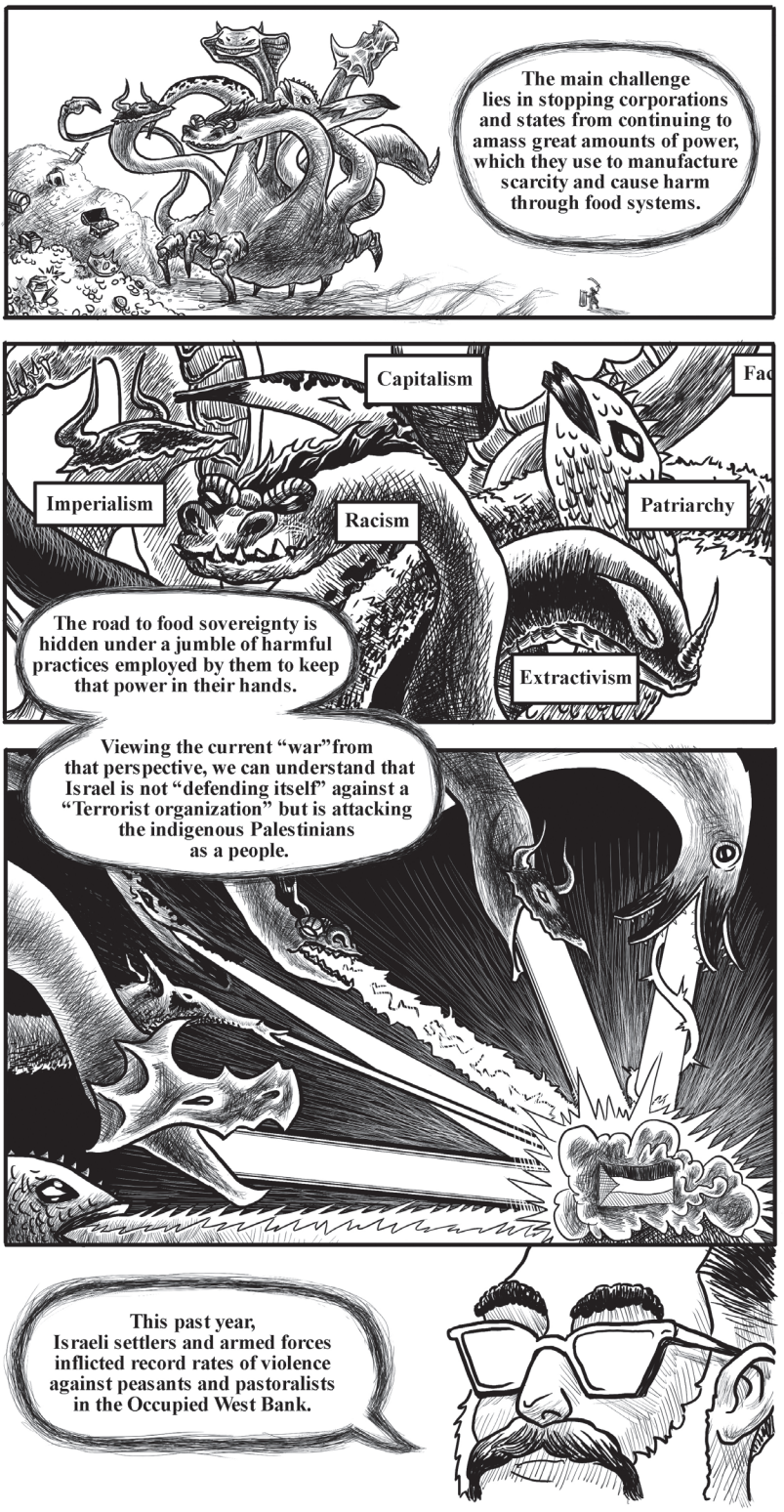
Use cooking oil sparingly

III. Palestinian People's Food Sovereignty

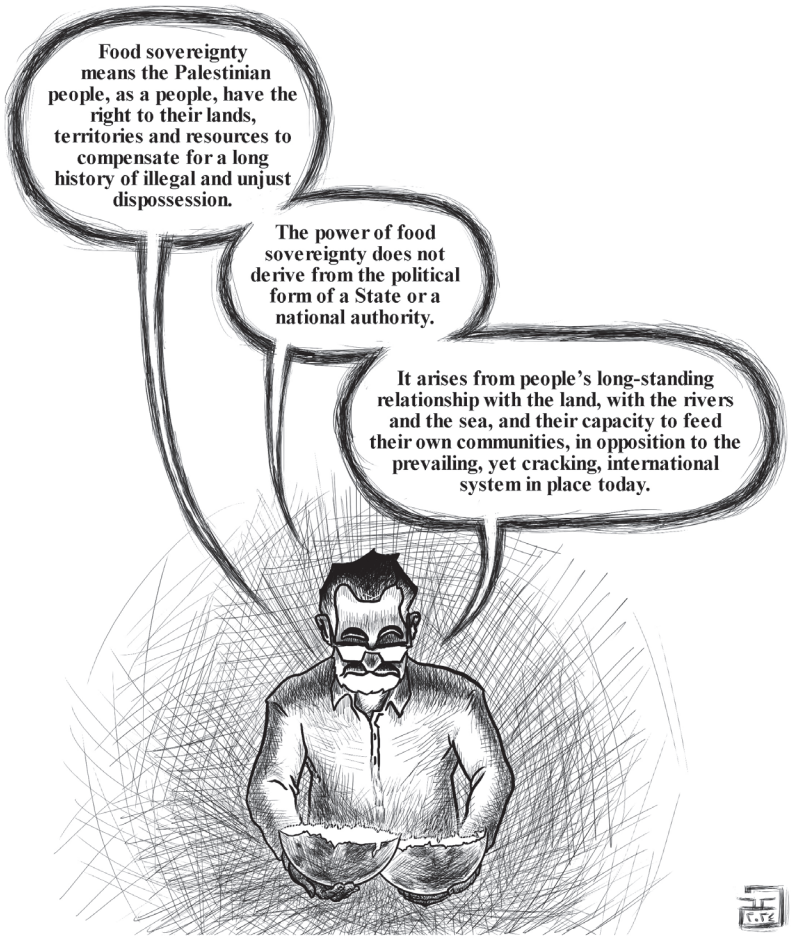

Michael Fakhri
United Nations
Special Rapporteur
on the Right to Food
Israel's campaign of starvation and genocide against the people of Gaza has created a major crack in the international system.
How States and international institutions are responding to Gaza is redefining the very nature of international law.
UNITED
In parallel, an extraordinary global wave of solidarity movements supporting the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is rolling across the world.
Millions of people recognize that the tools and techniques that will free the Palestinian people from occupation, oppression, and exploitation will ultimately be the same ones that can free us all.


THE FLOUR MASSCRE
WHILE CHILDREN IN GAZA DIE FROM LACK OF FOOD THEIR PARENTS ARE KILLED TRYING TO GET IT
By fighting Israel's starvation campaign against the Palestinians, people are in effect also fighting for their own freedom from hunger.
Most of the world's population suffer under food systems that harm or kill them through slower forms of violence than in Gaza today.
Corporate-led industrial food systems ravage the environment, degrade biodiversity, and emit approximately one third of the world's greenhouse gases.
These food systems are precariously designed to produce profits by delivering edible commodities, instead of food that is good for people's mental, political and physical health.
People want to transform these systems to become based on care and reciprocity.


And how can this be achieved?
The challenge with transformation does not lie in a scarcity of solutions.
Omar Khouri
Graphic Journalist
We already know what States must do to realize the right to food:
Agrarian land must be redistributed more fairly, while recognizing and respecting strong tenure and territorial rights.
Labor laws should be enacted and enforced to ensure dignity in the workplace.
Territorial markets should be supported so that local communities and regions are better connected and less vulnerable to global markets.
Solidarity economic enterprises should be supported because they prioritize social purpose over profits.
Solutions abound...
So what are the challenges then?


The main challenge lies in stopping corporations and states from continuing to amass great amounts of power, which they use to manufacture scarcity and cause harm through food systems.
Capitalism
Fac
Imperialism
Racism
Patriarchy
Extractivism
The road to food sovereignty is hidden under a jumble of harmful practices employed by them to keep that power in their hands.
Viewing the current "war" from that perspective, we can understand that Israel is not "defending itself" against a "Terrorist organization" but is attacking the indigenous Palestinians as a people.
This past year, Israeli settlers and armed forces inflicted record rates of violence against peasants and pastoralists in the Occupied West Bank.

As a result, peasants were not able to harvest their olives.
Olives are of course an important source of food and livelihood.
But the Palestinian people's relationship to olive trees, which can live for hundreds of years, is also about their relationship to their ancestors and to their future.
Just as small-scale fishing is an integral part of a life of harmony with the sea and not only a means to gather food.
Or foraging wild za'atar is not just a culinary choice but a practice that retains an inherent connection to the land.


Food sovereignty means the Palestinian people, as a people, have the right to their lands, territories and resources to compensate for a long history of illegal and unjust dispossession.
The power of food sovereignty does not derive from the political form of a State or a national authority.
It arises from people's long-standing relationship with the land, with the rivers and the sea, and their capacity to feed their own communities, in opposition to the prevailing, yet cracking, international system in place today.

Once this cracking system crumbles, what might we build from the salvage?

About “If I Must Die,” by Refaat Alareer

Illustration by Tracy Chahwan

Several adaptations of the poem “If I Must Die” by **Refaat Alareer** (1979-2023) appear in this anthology. Alareer was Palestinian writer, poet and university professor, born in Gaza City. In 2014, his brother, grandfather-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, and three nieces were killed by Israeli bombing.

In 2015, Alareer co-founded an organization called **We Are Not Numbers** dedicated to matching young Gazan writing students with outside author mentors to develop their use of storytelling as a form of resistance. Mentors communicated with hundreds of students, using digital tools capable of crossing uncrossable borders.

Alareer died in Gaza City, killed by an Israeli airstrike on December 6th, 2023 at the age of 44 by what has been described by the Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor as a deliberate and surgical targeting. His brother, sister, and four children were also killed in the strike.

Four months after her father’s assassination, on April 27th, 2024, Alareer’s daughter, husband, and their two-month old son were also killed in an Israeli airstrike on their building in Gaza City.

Author Bios

Adam Whittier is a cartoonist and educator from New England. He's drawn pictures for the National Park Service, the New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance, *The Nib*, and *Tumbleweird*, among others. He also makes greeting cards, house portraits, and mini-comics. Adam earned an MFA from the Center for Cartoon Studies and is currently working on a Master's in Elementary Education. He actually believes that art can make the world a better place.

Al Benbow (they/them) is a designer and illustrator whose work is often centered around their identity as a nonbinary butch lesbian. Born and raised in the Midwest, they now live in Massachusetts with their partner, where they still harbor a love for rural spaces.

Aml El Nakhala is a Palestinian visual artist from Gaza.

Anuj Shrestha is a cartoonist and illustrator. His comics have been listed in several editions of *The Best American Comics* anthology. His illustration work has appeared in *The New York Times, The New Yorker, McSweeney's, Playboy* and *Wired*, among others.

Barrack Rima is a comics artist and filmmaker. She was born in Tripoli, Lebanon, lives in Brussels, and is a former member of Beirut based Samandal collective. Her first book in English translation is *Beirut* (2024) from Invisible Publishing.

Bala Seshasayee is a freelance cartoonist from India, now living in the Pacific Northwest, interested in exploring the interplay of language and art through the comics medium.

BeneDì (Benedetta D'Incau) is an Italian comics artist based in France. She is an all-time comics lover, who started working on personal projects, some of which published on her media accounts. In 2023 she published her first graphic novel *Il racconto della Roccia* (*Tale of the Rock*), dealing with Jewish-Muslim communities in early 20th century Yemen. She has collaborated with *La Revue Dessinée Italia* and is now working on her new comics project.

Billy Ruffian is an illustrator and comic artist from the UK. She is interested in history and its relationship with the present, the similarities between people across all times and places, and the way relationships with place and nature connect us together.

Can Yalçınkaya is a Turkish-Australian higher education worker, researcher, multidisciplinary artist, translator, editor, and curator, living and working on the unceded lands of the Dharug and Gundungurra peoples.

Cooper Lit makes comics in California where he lives with many animals and a lovely human.

Dan Archer is the founder of Empathetic Media, and a Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University, whose work has been featured in *Vice* magazine, the BBC, Canadian Broadcasting corporation, American Public Media, *Fusion* and many others as well as in the State Department's *Trafficking in Persons 2013 report*.

David Blumenstein works as a service designer and visual communicator. His award-winning comics work includes the graphic essay *Free Money, Please: How to Make Passive Income While the World Burns* and the book *#takedown: My Evening on a Pier with Pick-up Artists and Protesters* (Pikitia Press). His comics have appeared in *The Guardian, The Nib* and *Australian MAD*. He is a founding member of Squishface Studio and currently deputy president of the Australian Cartoonists Association.

Deena Mohamed is an Egyptian comics artist and writer. She first began making comics at 18 with her satirical webcomic Qahera, and is most known for her award-winning graphic novel trilogy *Shubeik Lubeik*, published in Arabic by Dar el-Mahrousa, and in English by Pantheon Books. She is based in Cairo, Egypt.

Dimitrea Tokunbo is a comic artist rooted in her Brooklyn community and values her time growing with the folks at Harriet's Apothecary, The Center for Anti-Violence Education, Park Slope Food Co-op, and The Brooklyn's Children's Museum. She's had a few children's books published with some other folks at Tilbury House, Boyds Mills Press, and Scholastic Press.

Douglas Lambert is a video editor, screenwriter, journalist and photographer. His work has been published by major Brazilian media outlets in addition to collaborating with many cultural institutions. Sometimes he writes comics, sometimes he draws them, sometimes he does both.

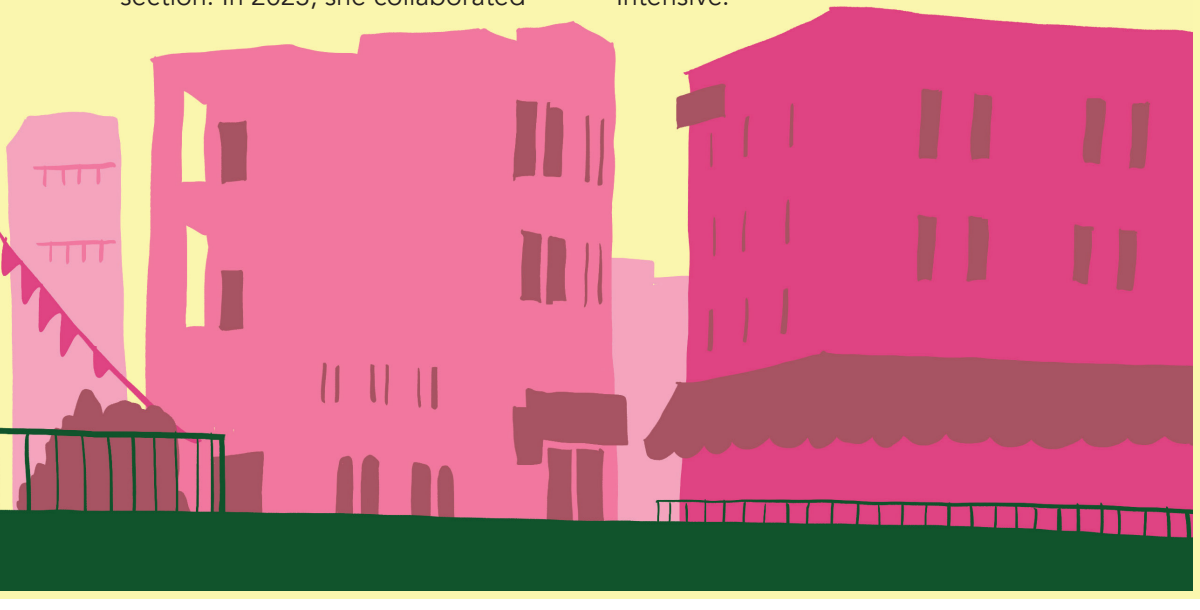
Eli Valley is the author of *Diaspora Boy: Comics on Crisis in America and Israel* (OR Books,

2017). His art has appeared in *Jewish Currents, The New Republic, The Baffler, The Chapo Guide to Revolution*, and the *Best American Comics* anthology series. His new book, *Museum of Degenerates: Portraits of the American Grotesque*, is available now from OR Books.

Elena Mistrello lives and works between Monza and Lissone as an illustrator and cartoonist. She has collaborated with several magazines and publishing houses including *Revue Desinee Italia, Messaggero di Sant'Antonio, Tracce Urbane dell'Università Sapienza, Jacobin, QCode Magazine, Eris Edizioni, Melusina edizioni* and others. Her 2022 work with Tiziana Vaccaro, *Sindrome Italia, storia delle nostre badanti,* published by Beccogiallo, won multiple awards. In 2021 she published the first chapter of *Lungomare* as part of Matteo Contin's Gorgo project. In September 2023, she published *Tracciato Palestina* with Foa Boccaccio, a travel story in the West Bank, winner of the first edition of BICA prize dedicated to self-publishing at the Belgioso Comics and Games in the 'best single work' section. In 2023, she collaborated with Avsi on *Ripartire dai resti, storie di donne al confine di una guerra*, comic reportage on Ukrainian refugee reception projects in Poland.

Ellen O'Grady is a visual artist and the author of *Outside the Ark: An Artist's Journey in Occupied Palestine* (2005). She spends much of her time making comics and is currently working on her second book.

Emma Kim Rust is an abolitionist and anti-imperialist queer, non-binary, mixed Korean-European cartoonist, illustrator, and zine maker in Minneapolis, MN. Through their comics, they channel visions of liberated futures to instill a sense of hope, possibility, and longing for these futures. Their comics also tell intimate stories of oppressed people to capture the challenges of navigating the traumas of our world, while demonstrating how our everyday relational actions are sites for greater healing and transformation. Emma is a graduate of the Independent Resource Center's Comics Certificate Program, and a current student in the Sequential Artist Network's Graphic Novel Intensive.



Ethan Heitner is an artist living and working in NYC.

Gianluca Costantini is an activist and artist. Accused of terrorism by the Turkish government, his drawings have documented the narratives of the HRW Film Festival in London, the FIFDH Human Rights Festival in Geneva, the Human Rights Festival of Milan and the International Festival in Ferrara. In 2017, he was nominated for the European Citizenship Awards. In 2019, he received the Art and Human Rights award from Amnesty International. His latest book is *Zodiac* for Ten Speed Press.

Golrokh Nafisi is a children's book illustrator, animator, and puppet maker engaged in the contemporary conceptual art scene. In her works, she covers daily events, lives of ordinary people, and the politics of the societies she lives in. She is based between Amsterdam and Tehran.

Holly Casio (she/they) is a queer comic artist and zine maker. Holly makes comics and art about queer pop culture, activism, trade unions, mental health, and Bruce Springsteen.

George Khoury (JAD), is a comics artist, author, and scholar, and is considered a pioneer of the art of comics in the Arab world. In 1980, JAD authored the first adult graphic novel in the region, and later founded the first collective of comics artists in the region (JADworkshop). He has written and lectured extensively on the subject, bringing to bear his unique perspective as both a practicing comics artist and a journalist with years of experience.

Jana Traboulsi is a visual artist, designer, and scholar serving as Assistant Professor at the American University of Beirut (AUB). She is the co-founder and creative director of *Bidayat*, a pan-Arab quarterly, and the artistic director of Snoubar Bayrout publishing house. She has been a regular editorial illustrator for Lebanese daily *AsSafir* and has published for children. In her work, particularly through drawing, she frequently connects the personal to the socio-political. Her artist book, *The Book of Margins* (2017), was shortlisted for the Jameel Prize in 2021 and has been exhibited at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

Jennifer Camper's comics examine life from a perspective that is irreverent, female, queer, and mongrel (Lebanese American). Her books include *Rude Girls and*

Dangerous Women and *subGURLZ*, and she edited two *Juicy Mother* comics anthologies. She was the creating director of three Queers & Comics Conferences and was featured in the documentary film, "No Straight Lines: The Rise of Queer Comics." Her work has appeared in numerous publications and exhibitions.

Jen Sorensen is a cartoonist seen on *Daily Kos, The Nib*, and in magazines and newspapers throughout the US. She is a 2017 Pulitzer finalist and recipient of the 2014 Herblock Prize and a 2013 Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award.

Jess Peng is an illustrator and cartoonist from Toronto, Canada. She likes small dogs and making art about love.

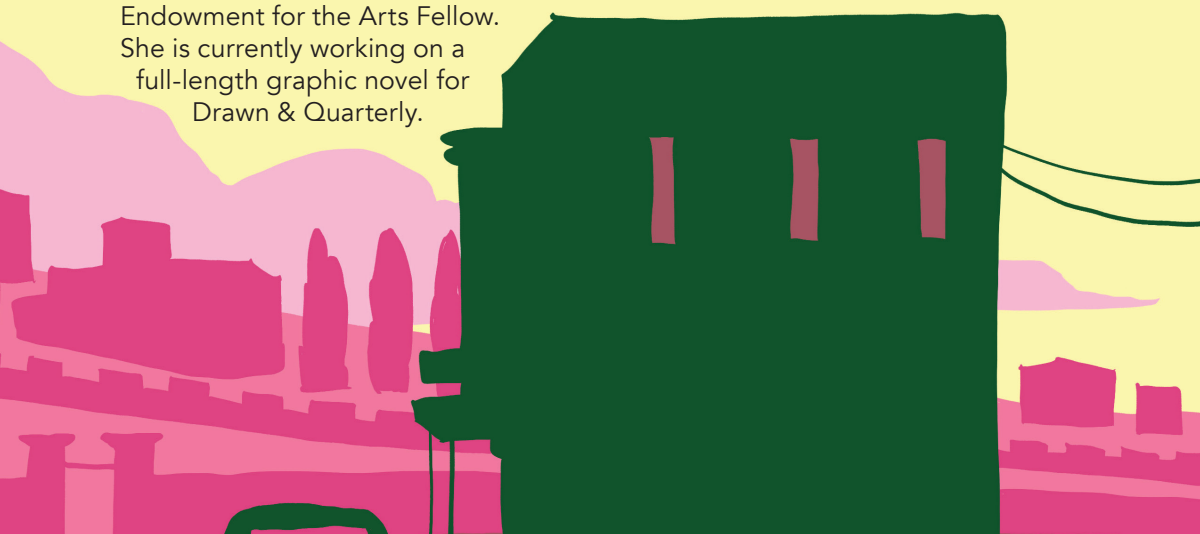
Julia Mata is an illustrator and comic book author from Southern California, living in Los Angeles. Her comics have been commissioned by *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Washington Post* and featured in *The New York Times, Hyperallergic,* and *The Brooklyn Rail*. She was a 2024 City of Long Beach Professional Artist Fellow, 2023 Individual Artist Fellow with the California Arts Council and a 2022 MacDowell Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts Fellow. She is currently working on a full-length graphic novel for Drawn & Quarterly.

Kaitlyn Quach is a Chinese-American NB cartoonist who specializes in wacky humor and tapping into their inner child.

Kazimir Lee has lived for almost equal amounts of time in Malaysia, the UK, and the US. They now reside in Brooklyn. They enjoy queer subtext, parenthood, ghost stories, and karaoke.

Leila Abdelrazaq Leila Abdelrazaq is a Palestinian graphic novelist and writer. She co-founded Maamoul Press, an award-winning, transnational independent arts and publishing project dedicated to uplifting by-us-for-us storytelling in comics and book arts from SWANA communities and beyond. She is the author of *Baddawi* (which was shortlisted for the Palestine Book Awards) and *The Opening*. Her short comics, essays, and illustrations have been published in *The Believer, The Michigan Quarterly Review, The Funambulist*, and others. She has exhibited and given workshops around the world.

Lena Merhej is a comic artist and illustrator. She taught at several universities in Beirut and was a co-founder of Samandal, an award-



winning comics organization in Lebanon. She is the founder and director of the Story Center, which offers professional trainings in animation, illustration, and comic books.

Madeline Berger is a comics artist and arts organizer living and working on the unceded and traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Maia Kobabe is a nonbinary queer cartoonist, a kpop fan, a voracious reader, and a daydreamer. You can learn an astonishing number of intimate details about em in *Gender Queer: A Memoir* (America's most challenged book 2021-2023) and in eir short comics and writing published in *The Nib, The New Yorker, The Washington Post, NPR* and *Time Magazine*. Maia's second book is *Breathe: Journeys To Healthy Binding* with Dr Sarah Peitzmeier and eir third book will be a middle grade comic written with Lucky Srikumar.

Matt Bors is an Eisner-winning comics editor and two time Pulitzer Prize Finalist in cartooning. In 2013, he founded *The Nib*, which published 6,000 comics, three books, and 15 issues of an award-winning print magazine. In 2017 he was the Executive Producer and head writer for two seasons of *The Nib* animation produced by Topic with Augenblick Studios.

Mazen Kerbaj is a Lebanese comics author, visual artist, and musician born in Beirut in 1975. He also works on selective illustration and design projects and has taught at the American University of Beirut. Kerbaj is the author of 15 books translated into more than ten languages and his work has been shown in galleries, museums and art fairs around the world.

Melissa Mendes is a cartoonist living in rural western Massachusetts. She is currently working on a book called *The Weight*, inspired by her late grandfather's life.

Mohammad Sabaaneh is Palestinian cartoonist based in Ramallah in the West Bank and has published his work in many other newspapers around the Arab world. He is the author of *Power Born of Dreams: My Story Is Palestine* and *White and Black: Political Cartoons from Palestine* and has received many awards, including the 2017 Marseille International Cartoon Festival Prix d'Or.

Niccolo Pizzaro is a queer Filipino American cartoonist and illustrator from Queens, New York. Their work has been featured in *The Nib, The Eater, In These Times*, and more! They live with their wonderful partner and the sweetest dog ever.

Nicki Newell is an American non-binary illustrator and mixed-media artist living in Scotland.

Omar Khouri is an interdisciplinary artist working with painting, comics, and film, amongst other art forms. In 2006, he co-founded Samandal Comics, the first experimental comics collective in the Middle East, credited for starting the recent comic book revolution in the Arab world.

Othman Selmi is a Tunisian author, illustrator, graphic designer, and art director. After a career in advertising, he fully devoted himself to his personal creations, with comics playing a central role. During the pandemic lockdown, he made a lasting impression by creating *The (Unreasoned) ABCs of COVID-19* in Tunisia. His work has been published in Tunisia, Switzerland, Italy, Lebanon, France, and the United States. His latest book, *Porti*, was released in Italy. He currently serves as the art director of the magazine Legal Agenda.

Parisa Karami is an artist living in the Hudson Valley with her family. Recent works can be seen on media outlets such as *McSweeney's, Northwest Review, Pleiades, Aquifer, The Belladonna, New Orleans Review, Drunk Monkeys, MQR Mixtape, The Indianapolis Review, ANMLY* and elsewhere.

Rachel Deutsch is a cartoonist and writer. Her art is *The New Yorker, PRISM, The Pinch, McSweeney's, Mother Tongue, Mutha Magazine* and more. She has a graphic memoir on motherhood coming out in 2025. She cares deeply about Palestinian liberation and makes art to bring attention to what is happening in Palestine as well as to speak to other Jews about the catastrophic effects of Zionism on Palestinians. She lives in Montreal with her partner and two young kids.

Rotem Anna Diamant is an artist and librarian who creates comics focused on themes of identity, often conveying experiences and ideas using elements of the surreal and magical. For the past three years, they have self-published a series of mini comics called *Cute Nose*. Their most recent project is a graphic novel exploration of Jewish identity and mythologies, through a lens of queerness and experiences of illness.

Safdar Ahmed is an artist and writer who lives and practices on the unceded land of the Gadigal and Guringai people in Sydney, Australia. In 2011 he published *Still Alive*, a graphic novel about Australia's refugee detention system, which is published by Twelve Panels Press and Fantagraphics Books.

Urjuen is an illustrator and comics artist specializing in political satire and currently working on a graphic novel.

Sam Nakahira is a comic artist and illustrator from Los Angeles. She makes comics about overlooked histories, dreams, the natural world, and more—mostly within a framework of Japanese and Japanese American history and mythology. Her debut graphic novel, *Ruth Asawa: An Artist Takes Shape*, was published by the Getty and Abrams Books in March 2024.

Sam Wallman is a writer, illustrator, and dockworker based in Melbourne, Australia.

Sammy Glavina is a British Illustrator and Cartoonist based in London. She works in publishing, editorial and makes art for children. Her work is usually character-driven, joyful and energetic. She's inspired by everyday situations that are relatable, messy and imperfect. She also draws autobiographical comics about her adventures in parenthood.

Sarah Firth (she/her) is based on Wurundjeri Country, Melbourne, Australia. She is an artist, writer, cartoonist, graphic recorder and animator, originally trained as a classical sculptor. She has received a Talking Difference Fellowship from the Immigration Museum, was a finalist in the Incinerator Gallery Award For Social Change and her comics were part of Eisner Award-winning and Ignatz nominated comic anthologies. Her debut graphic novel *Eventually Everything Connects* was listed as The Age's Non-Fiction Pick of The Week, ALIA's Notable Graphic Novels of 2023 and one of The Best Graphic Novels Ever by Refinery29.

Selim ElGarhy is a multimedia designer, illustrator and architecture student from Cairo. His work is heavily inspired by Egyptian architecture, urbanism, comic art, and fantasy. He works mainly with ink and digital art. He began an online presence in 2015, and has been working freelance since. ElGarhy participated as a film designer in Film My Design Festival's Emerging Local Talents program in 2022, and since then has been exploring filmmaking as a design medium. His interests span travelling, theatre, and production design.

Sole Otero is a comic artist, children's book illustrator and textile designer from Buenos Aires, Argentina. She was part of the Latin American collective Historietas Reales and of the international collective Chicks on Comics. In the past she has taught illustration, digital illustration, embroidery, knitting, narrative with color, comic and comic strip. She currently runs an online course on colour through Domestika. In

2019, she won the Fnac-Salamandra prize for her graphic novel project *Naftalina*, which was published in 2020 through Random House. In 2023 the same book was awarded during the Angoulême festival with the Prix du public France TV.

Simón Rodríguez is a Venezuelan socialist, writer and musician.

Sirene Moukheiber is an Illustrator and comic artist. She previously worked as an illustrator and art director with AJ+ in Doha, Qatar, and is currently a visual content creator with WHRDMENA coalition.

Solomon Brager is the author of the graphic memoir *Heavyweight* (William Morrow, 2024) and the director of community engagement at *Jewish Currents.*

Soolagna Majumdar creates comics and art on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar people (Perth, Western Australia), which was never ceded.

Tom Humberstone is an award-winning comic artist, illustrator and writer based in Edinburgh. He is the author of *Suzanne: The Jazz Age Goddess of Tennis* (Avery Hill) and his non-fiction comics have appeared in the Ignatz award-winning *The Nib, the New Statesman, Vox, Buzzfeed* & more.

Trinidad Escobar is an Autistic cartoonist-poet and upasika from Milpitas, California, USA. She is the creator of *Crushed* and *Arrive In My Hands* (Black Josei Press). Her comics have been featured in *The New Yorker, The Washington Post, The Nib, The Society of Illustrators, The Brooklyn Review*, Drawn & Quarterly, Abrams, and more. Her forthcoming graphic novel, *Of Sea and Venom* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux Books for Young Readers) was inspired by indigenous resistance movements in the pre-colonial Philippine Islands. As a comics professor she developed the Race & Comics undergraduate course at California College of the Arts. Trinidad is also a musician and a kalista, or Filipina martial artist. She lives with her son, partner, and their many animals.

Zhen (they/them) is a queer, trans, neurodivergent Chinese American artist. When they're not busy creating something, they're usually deep in thought about life and other existential matters… or silly nonsense and curiosities that have no answer.

We could not fit all the comics from our ever-growing archive in these pages. Thank you to all the artists who donated their work to this project.

See more comics—and submit your own story to share—at *cartoonistsforpalestine.org*

Volunteer editors

Yazan al-Saadi is a Syrian-Canadian writer, researcher, critic, and comic zealot. He is currently based in the alluring (yet callous) city of Beirut. He has seen too many airports and often dreams of electronic sheep. He has an aversion to genocidal regimes. His first book, *Lebanon is Burning*, was published in 2024.

Tracy Chahwan is a cartoonist and illustrator from Lebanon. Since 2016, she has been working closely with the Beirut music scene, designing posters and visuals for numerous venues and concerts. In 2018, she published her first graphic novel *Beirut Bloody Beirut* with Marabulles. Chahwan is a member of many collectives, including Lebanese comics collective Samandal, and Zeez which aims to be a truthful alternative to mainstream media.

Sarah "Shay" Mirk (she/they) is a graphic journalist, editor, and teacher. For six years, Shay was a contributing editor at comics publication *The Nib*, where projects she worked on won both Eisner and Ignatz award-winning stories. They are the author of Guantanamo Voices, an illustrated oral history of Guantanamo Bay prison, which Kirkus called "extraordinary… an eye-opening, damning indictment of one of America's worst trespasses." They are a zine-maker and illustrator whose comics have been featured in *The New Yorker, Bitch*, and NPR. They are white, nonbinary, and queer.

Andy Warner makes, edits and teaches nonfiction comics. He was a contributing editor at *The Nib* from 2016 until the ship went down. He is the author of five books, and is working on three more. He comes from the sea.

Copy editor and website content management volunteer: Ethan Heitner

Social media volunteer: Al Benbow

Submissions volunteer: Souzan Alavi

Web developer volunteer: Layal Khatib

Print design volunteer: Andy Warner

Interior illustrations: Kazimir Lee

After minimal printing costs and artist fees have been met, profits from this anthology will be distributed to:

Medical Aid for Palestinians
Medical Aid for Palestinians is running a Gaza emergency funding appeal to help provide much-needed medications, medical supplies, and disposables to Palestinian hospitals and emergency services in both Gaza and Jerusalem.

ANERA
ANERA is also responding by providing access to medical supplies and aid to Palestinian healthcare facilities

Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF)
The PCRF has an ongoing fundraiser for Gaza to provide urgent humanitarian and medical aid to injured and sick children in Gaza on a need basis. The Palestine Children's Relief Fund addresses medical and humanitarian Palestinian youth in Palestine and the Middle East. The organization helps provide free medical care for children who otherwise could not access it.

Ghassan Abu Sittah Children's Fund (GASCF)
This Fund is dedicated to the children of Gaza: providing medical attention to the children who need it the most and helping to relieve the medical sector in Gaza. The first initiative for the Fund, under the expert guidance of Dr. Ghassan Abu Sittah, is the transportation of critically injured children with their caretakers from Palestine to Lebanon, where they can receive the best possible medical, psychological, and social care, before returning home to Palestine where they will continue their recovery.

MAP
MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS

PCRF
Palestine Children's Relief Fund

anera
WHERE HOPE FINDS A WAY

THE GHASSAN ABU SITTAH CHILDREN'S FUND

Thank you to all who helped with this project and its associated events, including Kazimir Lee, Sarah Maloney, Omar Khouri, Michael Fakhri, Solomon Brager, Jennifer Camper, Marguerite Dabaie, Eli Valley, Ben Passmore, Nebila Oguz, Omar Dewachi, Avi Ehrlich, Matt Bors, Dimitrea Tokunbo, Violet Bea, and Maia Kobabe. Thanks to Silver Sprocket in San Francisco and Bureau of General Services—Queer Division in New York City for hosting Cartoonists for Palestine fundraising events.

This anthology, and the Cartoonists for Palestine project, is dedicated to all those affected–directly and indirectly–by the ongoing genocide and colonization we are witness to in Palestine.

Cartoonists For Palestine
رسامو القصص المصورة من أجل فلسطين

Comics have no walls nor borders. As cartoonists, we can use art to push past the boundaries.

This anthology of over 60 comics creators from around the globe centers cartoonists' personal responses to the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people. All around the world, cartoonists write and draw about the most important topics of the moment. Artists are not powerless. Through comics, we can shape the narratives told about ourselves and our world —and in that way, we hope to provoke change.

Do not stand still or stay silent.

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Medical Aid for Palestinians
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Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF)
Ghassan Abu Sittah Children's Fund (GASCF)

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